

WUPE 100.1FM
North Adams, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH
2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- What were the issues
- City Talk
- News stories
- Samples of public service announcements
- Commonwealth Journal
- Viewpoints

Compiled by Tom Conklin
News Director

Gamma Broadcasting 2015

WUPE 100.1FM

North Adams, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH
2015

COMMUNITY ISSUES IN THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2015

What were the issues in our community? Read on.

BMC EXPANDS SERVICES AT BMC NORTH CAMPUS

Berkshire Medical Center expanded services in March at its Northern Berkshire Campus in order to help provide for the health needs of the northern Berkshires. The operating rooms at the former hospital are being put back into use after a nearly \$1 million upgrade. Two of the four surgical suites at the Northern Berkshire Campus of Berkshire Medical Center were to begin orthopedic outpatient surgeries. Other outpatient services have previously been restored. All of this comes after North Adams Regional Hospital suddenly closed its doors last year. The community and local advocacy groups continue to push for a full service hospital in North Adams.

KINDER MORGAN STILL TRYING TO GAIN PUBLIC APPROVAL

Kinder Morgan continues to gain the public's approval of their proposed Natural gas pipeline, as the topic remains prevalent in local community meetings and council meetings. The company did at one point change the proposed route to try to satisfy some residents that were vehemently opposed to the planned route. As of February, the proposed natural gas pipeline would pass through Cheshire, Dalton, Windsor, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough and Peru.

POTHLES, POTHLES, POTHLES

The city of North Adams and the surrounding northern Berkshires towns are dealing with a massive crop of giant potholes – the result of a very brutal winter and the subsequent frost heaves. Faced with a large undertaking and high cost, the Berkshires received some help in the form of infrastructure improvement money released to the county by Governor Charlie Baker.

CITY AND TOWN BUDGET CHALLENGES

The City of North Adams and other local towns in the northern Berkshires, dealt with the lengthy process of the formation and passage of their 2016 fiscal budgets. The new fiscal year begins July 1st.

Gamma Broadcasting 2015

WUPE 100.1 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

2015

City Talk

City Talk is a 30 minute public affairs program focusing on the city of Pittsfield and its workings. Guests include local lawmakers, educators, city officials, city councilors, etc. The program is hosted by Gamma Broadcasting News Director Tom Conklin and airs on AM1420 WBEC on Friday's at 11:30AM and – and also repeats on Sunday mornings on AM1420 WBEC, 100.1 WUPE-FM, WUPE-AM and LIVE 95.9 FM.

Gamma Broadcasting 2015

CITY TALK – GUESTS 2015

JANUARY

01/02/15 – Pittsfield Mayor Dan Bianchi – City Issues

01/09/15 – Encore program – Adam Hinds, Shannon Grant

01/16/15 – Jim Hamilton, Kate Alexander – Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority

01/23/15 – Pittsfield Schools Superintendent, Jake McCandless – New Taconic HS

01/30/15 – Pittsfield Fire Inspector Randy Stein – Fire Safety

FEBRUARY

02/06/15 – Encore Program – Fire Inspector, Randy Stein

02/13/15 – Pittsfield Mayor Dan Bianchi – City Issues

02/20/15 – Phil Massery – MS Support Group

02/27/15 – No Program

MARCH

03/06/15 – No Program

03/13/15 – Pittsfield Parent Child Home Program

03/20/15 – Pittsfield Mayor Dan Bianchi – City Issues

03/27/15 – Berkshire Chamber of Commerce – Spring into Summer Expo

WUPE 100.1FM
North Adams, Massachusetts
ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH
2015

NEWS

This is a sample of news copy presented on the air on the air
during a normal broadcast day.

The Berkshire News Network provides extensive and rounded
coverage of stories throughout Berkshire County. Stories are
shared between stations on a routine basis.

Gamma Broadcasting 2015

NA 01-05-15

NORTH ADAMS MAYORAL CANDIDATE CITED FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE ERRORS (NA)

Former North Adams mayoral candidate Robert Moulton Jr. has been warned by the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance for apparently mishandling campaign funds in 2013. Office director Michael Sullivan found Moulton, who was defeated by incumbent Mayor Richard Alcombright in the November 2013 election, received in-cash and anonymous donations in violation of state regulations. The November decision, which has since circulated on social media, did not include any financial or otherwise tangible penalty against Moulton. Should Moulton run for office again, he must provide the office with "copies of bank statements, all deposit tickets, and contributor checks for further review. Moulton admitted to the mistakes but said he believes they were reported to the state out of a malicious intent to discredit him.

BMC ENVISIONS EXPANDED HEALTH SERVICES AT NORTH CAMPUS (P, NA)

Berkshire Medical Center officials are developing a master plan for using the unoccupied portions of the former North Adams Regional Hospital, now known as the BMC Northern Berkshire Campus, and say they fully intend to use the entire facility. The Berkshire Eagle reports that during a year-end interview, hospital officials said they are carefully looking at the current and future health needs of the community and at the remaining space so they can devise a practical building-use plan. Since the sudden closing of NARH, BMC and the state have invested about \$10 million to restore health care services in North County, a figure that includes the \$4 million purchase of the property. Further grant funding is expected to bolster that number in 2015.

VILLAGE AMBULANCE IN WILLIAMSTOWN ADDS NEW GEAR (NA)

To improve patient care and protect the safety of emergency medical technicians, Village Ambulance has equipped a new ambulance with gear to allow safer transport of bariatric patients. Bariatric medicine is the treatment of obesity and the health liabilities that come with it. Transporting bariatric patients, who can weigh between 350 to 650 pounds – and typically suffer from heart disease, diabetes or respiratory issues — presents a unique challenge for EMTs, usually requiring four to five crew members to safely move the patient in and out of a conventional ambulance. The new bariatric gear will allow the same work to be done by three crew members.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL REACHES UPDATE MILESTONE (NA)

Efforts to update the aging Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown reached a milestone when the district was approved to begin working with the state on a potential capital project. But while local officials carry out a feasibility study on the project, they must also address issues they say affect the educational environment. Last spring, both town meetings approved an \$850,000 feasibility study that will result in various options for the district, including a renovation or a new building. The committee is working with the state's School Building Authority (MSBA) to carry out the study and at the same time, addressing any building issues that come up.

NA 01-07-15

NORTH ADAMS ARMORY PROJECT (NA)

North Adams will focus its annual Community Development Block Grant on the Armory's parking lot and lower levels and is preparing a request for proposals for an agency to operate it. IBerkshires.com reports that Director of Community Development Michael Nuvalle said the next step toward rehabilitating the building into a youth community center will mark Phase 10 of the project, which began in 2007 when the city purchased the building from the state. A public hearing on the use of this year's CDBG funds was held Monday at City Hall with Mayor Richard Alcombright and involved agencies. The \$5 million project has used state and federal funds to slowly improve the former National Guard building.

ADAMS TO SCALE BACK BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY PROJECT (NA)

A plan to convert a former Adams car wash into a rail station will have to be scaled back to fit into the town's budget, but officials remain confident the Berkshire Scenic Railway project will launch this year as planned. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the only two bids on construction of the planned Adams Station Pavilion Park on Hoosac Street came in well over budget, prompting officials to prepare for a rebid of the project. Salco Construction submitted the lowest response to the town's request for proposals on the construction, but was still over the town's estimate of \$100,000 by \$62,000. The project scope will likely be restructured and rebid, according to Interim Town Administrator Donna Cesan.

THIEF STEALS ADAMS YOUTH CENTER FUNDS WITH HUNDREDS IN PROCEEDS (NA)

Adams Police are investigating the theft of a safe, containing hundreds of dollars in cash, from the Youth Center last month. Youth Center Director Sonia DiSanti said the theft occurred on December 16th, the Sunday following the nonprofit's "Make-It Take-It" craft fair fundraiser. The safe, which DiSanti said contained more than \$500 in cash and checks, was the only item stolen from the Youth Center's offices on East Street. The amount stolen is only a small portion of the Youth Center's \$180,000 annual operating budget, but DiSanti says, "every little bit counts." The Youth Center's teen students are planning a January 26th fundraiser at Bounti-Fare restaurant to recoup the lost funds.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING (NA)

Williamstown's newly formed Economic Development Committee may be the largest committee in town, but its members want to hear more voices. The now 11-member panel held its first meeting on Monday evening, and although much of the discussion focused on the members getting to know one another and procedural matters, one theme that emerged was the need to garner more input from the community.

WILLIAMSTOWN RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE ANNUAL CENSUS (NA)

The 2015 Annual Street Listing will be mailed to all Williamstown residents this week. IBerkshires.com reports that the census is requirement of the Massachusetts General Law and it is important that all residents return them to the town clerk's office promptly. Failure to respond to the census will result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls. Residents should not use the census form for the purpose of voter registration. Any resident who is not registered to vote may register by going to the town clerk's office or by mailing a voter registration form to the town clerk's office.

NA 01-08-15

NORTH ADAMS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS QUIETLY NET \$29,000 IN RAISES (NA)

As the North Adams Public Schools system continues to face a bleak financial outlook, the North Adams School Committee quietly approved \$29,000 in pay raises for 10 administrators last month. The Berkshire Eagle reports after negotiating the raises — two of which exceed \$10,000 — behind closed doors at its December 2nd meeting, the School Committee voted 5 to 1 to approve them. Mark Moulton cast the lone "no" vote. The reason for holding the closed-door executive session wasn't stated on the public agenda posted prior to the meeting. Minutes from the meeting don't indicate if any discussion on the raises took place in open session. Administrators defended the raises, saying most of them are less than what teachers recently received through collective bargaining.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE QUERIES 2015 APPLICANTS (NA)

The Williamstown Community Preservation Commission on Tuesday evening heard from four applicants seeking a combined total of about \$64,000 in Community Preservation Act funds. The town's Conservation Commission, the Williamstown Historical Museum, the Trustees of Reservations and Sand Springs Pool each are seeking between \$10,000 and \$27,000 to pay for projects that the applicants argue fall under the provisions of the act. The committee did not deliberate about the merits of any of the proposals on Tuesday night. Instead, it asked each applicant questions that the applicants will answer at the committee's January 20th meeting.

CHESHIRE WATER PROTECTION BYLAWS MAY LAPSE OVER MISSING INFO (NA)

Because of missing information, Cheshire may lose extended zoning bylaws that protect three drinking water wells owned by Adams. Board member Charlie Howard told the Selectmen on Tuesday night that the attorney general's office has kept the 2006 expansion of the Zone II areas for those wells on hold for years. He said if this information is not completed by the end of February the town will have difficulties passing its zoning reorganization and the Zone II areas will not legally exist.

A PITTSFIELD MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN (P)

A Pittsfield man is facing child pornography charges for allegedly possessing videos and images depicting young children and infants being sexually abused. 54 year old Jeffrey Petryk, of Boylston Street, was arrested Tuesday after police executed a search warrant on his apartment and discovered an electronic storage device containing the images. He pleaded not guilty in Central Berkshire District Court on Tuesday to a single count of possession of child pornography. More charges may be pending, according to the police report. He was released on \$500 bail on the condition he have no intentional contact with anyone under 18. Petryk is due back in court for a pretrial hearing on February 5th.

PATRICK OUT, BAKER IN (All)

Democratic Governor Deval Patrick has left the Massachusetts Statehouse for the last time as governor. Patrick took the traditional "lone walk" from his office down the front steps of the state capitol yesterday, pausing for the national anthem and a thunderous 19-gun salute. The walk followed a private meeting with new Governor, Republican Charlie Baker - sworn in today in the state house chamber.

NA 01-12-15

BAKER GETS WARM WELCOME IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY (All)

The Berkshires may not have voted for Charlie Baker but that didn't stop it from giving the new governor a warm welcome on Saturday. IBerkshires.com reports that around 200 people greeted Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito at Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams on Saturday morning; the state's new leaders also toured Soldier On in Pittsfield to talk about affordable housing and met with about 100 local and business leaders at Berkshire Chamber of Commerce event at the Berkshire Museum. Baker was focusing on the positive three days into his term as governor and encouraging bottom up collaboration as they visited six "Spotlights on Excellence."

TRAFFIC STOP IN CHESHIRE TURNS UP 300 BAGS OF HEROIN (NA)

Two North Adams men, 46 year old William Difalco and 30 year old Richard Jones III, face drug charges after a state trooper discovered more than 300 bags of heroin during a traffic stop last Monday in Cheshire. In Northern Berkshire District Court on Friday, Difalco and Jones entered not guilty pleas and were released on personal recognizance. Difalco, of Hall Street, is charged with conspiracy to violate drug laws, being present where heroin is kept, possession of a class B drug, possession to distribute a class A drug, failure to stop, and a marked lanes violation. Jones, of Adams Street, was charged with possession to distribute a Class-A drug and conspiracy to violate drug laws. Both men are scheduled for a pretrial hearing on February 17th.

POWNAI SELECTMEN REVIEW TAX REPORTS, CONSIDER LAND ACQUISITION (NA)

The Town of Pownal Select Board met Thursday night of last week for its regular meeting, to review tax reports, to hear the monthly road foreman report and to discuss the future of the transfer station. The Bennington Banner reports that the select board met a quorum with all five members present. In addition to the aforementioned business items, the selectmen reviewed copies of the access permit for the new Southshire Medical Center proposed on Vt. Route 7. The Development Review Board is in the process of having the proposal signed off on by the zoning administrator.

STATE TROOPERS REPORT FOUR BERKSHIRE CRASHES, TWO INJURIES (NA)

Two people were injured early Thursday as a series of four unrelated car crashes kept state police hopping busy. The Berkshire Eagle reports that just before 7:30 a.m. 20 year old Dylan James Digennaro, of Adams, crashed his 1997 Volkswagen Jetta while traveling near 761 Wells Road in Cheshire. State police from the Cheshire barracks said that Digennaro was taken to Berkshire Medical Center, where he was treated and released. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. Around 1:10 p.m., 39 year old Amy Reese, of Adams, was injured after the 2003 Chevy Tahoe she was driving collided with another SUV on Route 8 near Lanesborough Road, also in Cheshire. Reese was transported to a BMC emergency room. The extent of her injuries were unclear. Shirley Armstrong, of Adams, the operator of the second SUV, a 2005 Suzuki, and an unidentified 21-year-old female passenger weren't hurt. The rash of crashes began about 5:40 a.m. in Hancock, when a single vehicle ran off the road and hit a sign. The driver wasn't hurt, troopers said. A second one-car accident was reported before 8 a.m. on Route 8 in Cheshire near the Dery Funeral Home.

NA 01-14-15

CAPELESS TAKES OATH FOR THIRD FULL TERM AS DA (All)

District Attorney David Capeless pointed to his 54 employees sitting in Berkshire Superior Court yesterday as to why, after 11 years, he still has a passion for his job. Iberkshires.com reports that Capeless was sworn in by Judge Joan McMenemy, Juvenile Court justice, for his third four-year term as the county's district attorney. The Pittsfield native was appointed by then Gov. Mitt Romney in 2004 to succeed Gerard D. Downing, who died while in office, and won election later that year to complete Downing's term. He went on to win three more consecutive elections, two of which were unopposed.

WILLIAMSTOWN URGED TO OPPOSE PIPELINE; ACTIVISTS SET INFO MEETINGS (NA)

A group of residents came to Monday's Williamstown's Board of Selectmen meeting to ask town officials to endorse a resolution opposing a proposed gas pipeline that would run through Northern Berkshire County. Iberkshires.com reports that according to activists, although no part of the route would go through the town itself, the threat it poses to the county is everyone's problem. And two of those activists were at Town Hall on Monday night to encourage the selectmen to attend one of five upcoming informational sessions about Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct project. The first is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Lanesborough Town Hall. Another is even closer to home for Williamstown residents: at Williams College's Dodd Dining Hall at noon on Friday, January 23rd.

NORTH COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SET FOR SPRING (NA)

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District will hold a hazardous waste collection in the spring. Program Coordinator Sandy Totter told the district's board on Thursday that there were enough funds to hold the collection May 30th. Totter said the collection will be at Adams' Department of Public Works garage on Summer Street. It will be open to residents of the 12 towns that make up the district. Totter said normally people should call and register ahead during the collection to better manage what comes in. The district has not had a collection since October 2012.

CLARKSBURG ELEMENTARY UPGRADE CONSIDERED BY SBA (NA)

For years, Clarksburg Elementary School has struggled with insufficient space. Built in 1952 and twice expanded, the school still is about 5,500 square feet smaller than the state recommends for its enrollment. And technologically, it's well behind the times. The Berkshire Eagle report that the Massachusetts School Building Authority will decide today whether to begin the process of working with the district to renovate or replace the school. Northern Berkshire School Union Superintendent Jon Lev, state Rep. Gailanne Cariddi, and members of the School Committee, will attend the 10 a.m. meeting in Boston. Officials have submitted a comprehensive "statement of interest" to the MSBA multiple times over the past decade, but the district has never been accepted.

PATRICKS SIGNS ON AS VISITING FELLOW T MIT (All)

Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick has signed on to be a visiting fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The school announced on Tuesday that Patrick, who left office last week after two terms, will participate in MIT's Innovation Initiative. The role will include appearances at seminars and other campus events, and Patrick will have office hours at the school, though he will not be teaching classes. Patrick confirmed before leaving office that he had been in discussions about what he called a "loose affiliation" with MIT. The Democrat has not revealed any other plans beyond his intention to return to the private sector. MIT said in a statement the former governor would focus on "issues at the intersection of policymaking, entrepreneurship, and innovation-based growth."

NA 01-16-15

ADAMS MULLS HIRING FIRM FOR PROPERTY REVALUATION; GETS CHAPTER 90 BUMP (NA)

The Adams Selectmen were notified that the town will receive additional Chapter 90 funds and discussed hiring a firm to conduct property evaluations. IBerkshires.com reports that Chairman Arthur Harrington read a letter from the state Wednesday night at a board workshop meeting that stated that Gov. Charlie Baker will release the remaining Chapter 90 highway money. Baker had made a campaign promise to release \$100 million in Chapter 90 held back by the last administration. Instead of receiving \$291,820, Adams will receive \$437,729 in its Chapter 90 account. Assessor Donna MacDonald went before the board and requested that it consider hiring an independent firm to conduct the town's property re-evaluation instead of doing it in house.

ADAMS TRUSTEES OFFICIALLY RESCIND LIBRARY SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY (NA)

The Adams Free Library board of trustees officially rescinded its approval of a service animal policy. IBerkshires.com reports that the trustees met Monday afternoon to revoke the decision made in December. The policy was immediately attacked by people saying it discriminated against those in need of a service animal and was illegal. Library Director Deborah Bruneau suspended the policy soon after the approval. According to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals do not have to be licensed or certified and cannot be prohibited or detained. If an animal is acting up, the owner can be asked to remove it.

CLOUD 85, A CO-WORK, PUBLIC OFFICE SPACE, TO OPEN IN NORTH ADAMS (NA)

New office space is opening in downtown North Adams — and for a membership fee, anyone can work there. The Berkshire Eagle reports that, Called Cloud 85, the business is a new concept in office use; members can work there all week and have their own space, or they can use the space on a more sporadic basis. Jeffrey Thomas, a partner in the business and manager of Cloud 85, said he expects the space will appeal to "independent professionals - folks who he says are finding it difficult to be productive in a home office due to household distractions – or freelancers like writers, graphic designers, telecommuters or consultants. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Cloud 85, which is at 85 Main Street; the facility officially opens on Wednesday.

BERKSHIRE FAMILY BURGLARY RING STRETCHED ACROSS STATE (All)

State police say they have broken up a family-run ring of thieves who were responsible for more than 130 break-ins stretching from the Berkshires to the Cape going back to 2010. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Nancy and James Tarjick, and their sons Aaron and James Jr., were arrested Wednesday after a multiple police agency raid on four properties in various locations in Berkshire County. They were held overnight pending their arraignment yesterday in Central Berkshire District Court. Judge William Rota released Nancy and James Tarjick Sr. on their own recognizance and held Jamie Tarjick on \$10,000 cash or \$100,000 surety bail. All three defendants are due back in court February 11th.

NA 01-19-15

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE TODAY (NA)

The Martin Luther King Day Committee is inviting everyone to join the Northern Berkshire community today as they celebrate the life, principles, and ideals of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by participating in a "Day of Service". The celebration begins with registration at 9am at the MCLA Church Street Center. There will be plenty of coffee and pastries on hand. You can participate by providing service to the community at more than ten sites including: Louison House, North Adams Skating Rink, local churches, weatherization for homes, the YMCA, food collection sites, and projects onsite at the MCLA Church Street Center. After the morning service projects, all participants are invited to return to MCLA Church Street Center at 12:30pm for a free luncheon and community celebration including local entertainment and some uplifting words. The annual Peacemaker Award will be presented today to Al and Cindi McLain during the celebration. The event is free and everyone in the community is encouraged to volunteer and celebrate.

SUNDAY ICY WEATHER CAUSES ACCIDENTS (All)

Sunday's freezing rain had motorists sliding off area roads. According to the National Weather Service office in Albany, up to an inch of liquid precipitation fell in parts of the county before changing over to snow early in the evening. The steady rainfall began mid-morning on Sunday and continued throughout the day creating slippery conditions and some street flooding that caused numerous motor vehicle accidents. The Adams Police Department was among the busiest law enforcement agencies responding to several traffic mishaps including a rollover on East Road with a minor injury and a two-car collision on Commercial Street. Emergency personnel in Lanesborough were sent to Partridge Road in Pittsfield for a vehicle that had flipped over, but no serious injuries were reported in that accident.

ATTACKS IN ADAMS AND PITTSFIELD (NA, P)

Three men involved in what police described as a "brutal" beating in Adams were arrested on Friday morning. According to Adams Police, the three men stabbed and severely beat a male victim at about 2:30 a.m. in the Elm Street area of town. The assault was the result of a previous argument between the victim and his attackers. All three men are presently being held at the Berkshire County House of Correction on separate bail amounts. They will be arraigned in Northern Berkshire District Court tomorrow morning. In Pittsfield, a city man was treated and released from Berkshire Medical Center for stab wounds to his leg following an apparent altercation at the Inter-model Center on Columbus Avenue yesterday morning. According to police, the victim described his assailants as two Hispanic men in dark-colored clothing. But the man was otherwise uncooperative.

BRPC RAISING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS 2.5 PERCENT (All)

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is asking member communities to pay 2.5 percent more in fiscal 2016. IBerkshires.com reports that the organization set the increased assessment on Thursday. The increase will add \$2,254 to the organization's general fund — bringing the fund to \$92,408. The cost per municipality ranges with Pittsfield being assessed \$32,292 at the top end and New Ashford at the low end with \$164. The assessments are based on population.

NA 01-19-15

BERKSHIRE COUNTY RESIDENTS HEAR CONCERNS ABOUT KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE (NA)

North County citizens packed Lanesborough Town Hall on Thursday night for an informational meeting about the proposed Kinder Morgan gas pipeline. Jane Winn of the Berkshire Environmental Action Team led the meeting that focused on how the natural gas pipeline could affect residents. Kinder Morgan and its proponents say the pipeline is safe and critical to meeting the growing energy needs of New England. Environmental groups have disputed the need for the 36-inch diameter pressurized line and its safety. Thursday's meeting did not involve any Kinder Morgan representatives, although Winn said they were invited.

BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SET TO EMBARK ON CONSTRUCTION SURGE (All)

Berkshire Community College is on the verge of a construction surge expected to provide the most significant revival of the West Street campus since it opened for classes in 1972. The Berkshire Eagle reports that out to bid now is renovation work in the Field Administration Center. Also set to begin over spring break is preliminary work for a \$23 million renovation of Hawthorne and Melville halls. Pending as well on campus is the planned creation of an artificial turf field near Paterson Field House across West Street from the academic buildings. And a study is underway to prepare a comprehensive plan for restoring the campus driveways, parking lots and pathways, some of which are in deteriorating condition.

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY COMMITTEE STARTS BUDGET DISCUSSION (NA)

The Williamstown School Committee last week began the discussions that will lead to a fiscal 2016 budget proposal later this spring. District Business Manager Lynn Bassett told the committee that she is awaiting guidance from Town Hall about how much money the school will have to work with, but she provided some preliminary insights.

BERKSHIRE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPANSION NEARLY DONE (NA)

An expansion of Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School in Adams is nearing completion. School officials hope to have temporary occupancy in early February — just in time for the school wide science fair on February 12th, according to Executive Director Julia Bowen. The \$4.6 million project will build upon the Commercial Street location, which was a former hotel and restaurant before the school was founded in 2004.

NEW ADAMS ADMINISTRATOR GOES TO WORK ON BUDGET (NA)

He's barely moved into a new job and new community, but Adams Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco already finds himself tackling one of the year's most important tasks: crafting the town budget. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Mazzucco, the former assistant city administrator in Caribou, Maine, officially took the reins last week from Interim Town Administrator and Community Development Director Donna Cesan. The Randolph native said he's been spending long hours getting up to speed in Town Hall, with January being the beginning of municipal budget season — one of the busiest times of year.

NA 01-21-15

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE TRIO HELD WITHOUT BAIL IN ADAMS BEATING (NA)

Three Northern Berkshire men were held without bail on Monday for their alleged role in the brutal beating and stabbing of man in Adams last month. The Berkshire Eagle reports that according to witnesses, 38 year old Daniel Chao of Adams, 24 year old Thomas Barrett of Savoy, and 24 year old Dean St. Jacques of North Adams, allegedly waited for Joshua Deeley in a parked car near Temple Street and jumped him shortly after 2 a.m. on December 27th and beat him in the head with a tire iron. The suspects, who were arrested on Friday, pleaded not guilty in Northern Berkshire District Court yesterday to multiple felony charges and held without the right to bail.

WILLIAMSTOWN OFFICIALS DISCUSS MOUNT GREYLOCK EXPANSION PROPOSAL (NA)

Williamstown officials had some tough questions about the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee's plan to seek expansion of the junior-senior high school district. IBerkshires.com reports that School Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Greene appeared last week at a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to discuss the proposal to ask Williamstown and Lanesborough to incorporate their elementary schools into the Mount Greylock district. The School Committee studied expansion in 2013, convening an ad hoc committee of representatives from both towns and all three schools. But Mount Greylock put the initiative on the backburner in fall '13 after the district was accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority's building program.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY EATS IS BACK...YUM! (NA)

North County Eats is back for a second year in the northern Berkshires... and after the success of last year's event organizers expect this year will be just as successful. Former Williamstown Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jen Civello was a consultant on this year's 2nd annual event. She explains how it all works...

: 19 Civello – Cue: slow for restaurants

The event is organized by the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce, the North Adams Chamber of Commerce, and the North Adams Office of Tourism – and it runs from this Friday January 23rd through February 1st. You can get more information at www.berkshirecounty eats.com.

SELECTMAN SAYS TOWN NEEDS TO TAKE STANCE ON PIPELINE (NA, P)

Cheshire Selectman Robert Ciskowski warned his colleagues yesterday that the town will eventually have to take a position on the controversial Kinder Morgan gas pipeline. Ciskowski attended last Thursday's meeting in Lanesborough about the pipeline and shared his concerns with the rest of the board. The meeting was one of several being sponsored by groups opposed to the Northeast Energy Project line.

NA 02-03-15

NORTH ADAMS MAN ACCUSED OF THREATENING WALMART EMPLOYEE (NA)

A North Adams man is facing assault charges for allegedly threatening a Walmart employee with a knife last month, after the employee confronted him and another man on January 24th for allegedly trying to cut open a package of razors with a knife. 24 year old Sean Miller, of Front Street, was arrested Thursday. Miller pleaded not guilty in Northern Berkshire District Court on yesterday to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, intimidating a witness, and malicious destruction of property under \$250. He was released on the condition that he has no contact with the alleged victim and that he stays at least 50 yards away from the store. He is due back in court March 18th.

BE WELL BERKSHIRES EXPANDS REACH WITH ADDITION OF BHS (All)

Three health-conscious organizations have teamed up to ensure county residents can practice a healthy lifestyle. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Berkshire Health Systems has joined Tri-Town Health Department and the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition to expand the reach of Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership program throughout the 32 cities and towns. Mass in Motion is a statewide program that funds local efforts to promote healthy living at home, in schools and the workplace. Last fall, Tri-Town and NBCC jointly received a \$150,000 grant from the Mass in Motion continue funding the Be Well Berkshires initiative through 2017. Each entity will equally share \$50,000 for each of three fiscal years with renewal options, pending the availability of state funds.

PIPELINE GIANT INVESTS IN BERKSHIRE1 (All)

An energy giant in the midst of developing and seeking regulatory approval for a controversial \$5 billion gas pipeline project that would run through part of northern Berkshire County is a recent investor in 1Berkshire – the not-for-profit economic development organization composed of Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, Berkshire Creative and the Berkshire Visitors Bureau – encompassing 1,500 local businesses. The Berkshire Edge.com reports that according to 1Berkshire spokesman and Berkshire Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Jonathan Butler, Kinder Morgan Energy approached 1Berkshire, asking at what level they could become a “leadership circle investor.” The leadership circle is the highest level of investment and requires a \$20,000 annual donation. Kinder Morgan gave that donation sometime around the late summer or early fall, making the company only one of nine investors in that category.

ADAMS MAN TAKES ON THE BOSTON MARATHON FOR GOOD CAUSE (NA)

An Adams runner is committed to running the Boston Marathon to raise money for the American Liver Foundation. 1Berkshires.com reports that Brian Alarie likes to run. In fact, the Adams native can cross the New York City Marathon and the Chicago Marathon off his list. However, at the age of 51, Alarie has decided to take on Boston, which some consider one of the hardest 26 miles, 385 yards in the country. People can donate to Alarie personally or through his Run for Research page on the American Liver Foundation website.

NA 02-06-15

METHADONE CLINIC SEEKS TO OPEN IN NORTH ADAMS (NA)

Spectrum Health Systems is planning to open a methadone clinic at 1274 Curran Highway North Adams. IBerkshires.com reports that the private non-profit operates 16 program centers in Massachusetts, including one in Pittsfield that initially ran into opposition but has operated quietly since 2012. It also has treatment centers in six other states and treats nearly 50,000 patients annually. The building, formerly an A&W and more recently a child-care center and postal service business, will have 12 parking spaces and extended curb cut. Spectrum has applied for a special permit to operate a professional office and business services and will appear before the Planning Board on Monday night.

MASS MOCA SETS FREE 'HOMETOWN' DAYS FOR NORTH ADAMS RESIDENTS (NA)

Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art is opening its doors to the North Adams community for free on the "18ths" of the next four months. The museum for years has hosted a community free day and provides free access through passes available at the public library. It also has a strong partnership with North Adams Public Schools and the North Berkshire School Union that brings local children to its Kid-Space gallery, which is also free to visitors. The new "hometown residents only" program will open the museum's doors on rotating days of the week to help address accessibility.

BART CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL TO OFFER HANDS-ON COURSE IN 3-D DESIGN (NA)

Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School students will get a chance to experience the latest design equipment — including a 3-D printer — in a new hands-on course this fall. According to Principal April West, the Adams school was recently awarded funds to purchase new equipment to establish a digital fabrication lab and to create a new high school course called "Discover, Design and Build." She says the year-long elective scheduled to start this fall will introduce high school students to a 3-D printer and 3-D scanner, a laser cutter, and a large format printer in addition to design and modeling software.

WILLIAMSTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PANEL DIVIDES WORKLOAD (NA)

Williamstown's town's Economic Development Committee discussed earlier this week how it will break up the sizable task it faces over the next 12 months. IBerkshires.com reports that Chairman Jeffrey Thomas recommended that the 11-person panel break up into three working groups to tackle the task of creating an economic development plan that can be submitted to the Board of Selectmen by next December. The 11-person committee, which includes two members of the Board of Selectmen and representatives pulled from the local business community, has met twice and plans to meet every other Monday, alternating with the select board's standing schedule of meeting the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

NA 02-10-15

MORE SNOW AHEAD, WHERE CAN WE PUT IT (All-Berkshires)

The Berkshires has been blasted with multiple snow storms over recent weeks, but the county has fared better than the Boston area, where Governor Baker says they have seen up to six feet of cumulative snow. Berkshires county picked up anywhere between 8 to 16 inches of new snow in the most recent storm, and now an extended period of frigid temperatures and more snow is in the forecast. Forecasters say that two fast-moving snow storms are predicted by early next week, with temperatures not predicted to break 30 degrees during the time in which the storms are taking place. Highway crews and local snow removal budgets have been strained and finding a place to dump plowed snow is becoming an issue.

MASSACHUSETTS IS RUNNING OUT OF SPACE FOR SNOW (All)

Governor Charlie Baker says Massachusetts is battling the cumulative impact of storms that have dropped more than six feet of snow in recent weeks in parts of the state. Baker told a Monday morning briefing at the state's emergency management center that highway crews have removed enough snow from state roads over the last two weeks to fill Gillette Stadium 90 times over. The latest storm was expected to leave up to two feet of additional snow in some areas and Baker says local communities are running out of places to put it. Meanwhile, state and environmental officials are giving cities and towns the green light to dump snow into open water if necessary.

NORTH ADAMS CEMETERY COMMISSION UPDATING REGULATIONS (NA)

The North Adams Cemetery Commission has made its final pass through the updated rules and regulations for the city's cemeteries. Berkshires.com reports that the commission met last week with a few last-minute unanswered questions about what will be on the final list of rules and regulations. The commission's first adjustment had to do with potted plants or pots being placed on or near the memorial. The rules state they can be placed on the memorial's foundation or immediately adjacent to it to facilitate mowing. The body has agreed to meet with the city solicitor before its next meeting to see how far their liability actually goes.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS HOPEFUL VOTERS STUDY FUNDS/BUDGET INCREASE (NA)

Clarksburg School officials are hoping that residents this spring will sign off on funding for a feasibility study for improvements to the aging elementary school. Officials are also looking to finalize a school building committee that will oversee a potential building project with the state. The district recently was accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority's eligibility period last month after years of applying and was given 270 days to show it can financially support a building project and establish a school building committee. Meanwhile, school officials in the town are dealing with a 6 percent increase in the draft budget for 2016. The budget plan distributed by Superintendent Jonathan Lev last Thursday had a bottom line of \$2,567,736, up \$144,782 over this year. Major hikes include salaries, insurance, tuition and energy costs.

NA 02-12-15

HOSPITAL ADVOCATES RALLY AT CITY HALL (NA)

A large group of advocates for a full service hospital in North Adams gathered together in frigid temperatures last night in front of the North Adams City hall to lay out their reasoning for restoring inpatient services in North Berkshire. IBerkshires.com reports that, armed with more research from the Massachusetts Nurses Association, the newly named North County Cares Coalition said it had the data to prove an 18-20 bed hospital would be sustainable. Berkshire Medical Center purchased the former NARH property through U.S. Bankruptcy Court in August, established an emergency satellite facility and began restoring outpatient services. It also has invested about \$13 million in upgrades, hired about 250 NBH employees and is making plans for more wellness and supportive services. Mike Leary, spokesman for BMC, said all indications show that inpatient services would not be financially viable at the Northern Berkshire Campus. Meanwhile, BMC officials say they are continuing to develop a master plan for the use of the entire facility.

PITTSFIELD, NORTH ADAMS OFFICIALS TOIL TO REMOVE MOUNDS OF SNOW (NA, P)

Officials in both North Adams and Pittsfield are scrambling to remove mountains of snow accumulated on city streets after two weeks of harsh weather, while salt supplies and overtime budgets dwindle. The Berkshire Eagle reports that in North Adams, Mayor Richard Alcombright used his platform at a City Council meeting on Tuesday to defend the city's Department of Public Works against critics who say they have done an inadequate job of plowing roads and removing snow this season. In Pittsfield, crews have deployed a "super snow-blower" and multiple dump trucks to move the white stuff to a city park. North Adams crews also began clearing snow from its main arteries this week. The city will rent two large trucks to export the additional snow. After the main roads are cleared, the city will begin to tackle the large snowbanks that have accumulated at street corners.

ADAMS SALT SUPPLY RUNNING LOW (NA)

With delayed salt deliveries, the town of Adams expects to be cutting it close with any upcoming storms. IBerkshires.com reports that Department of Public Works Director Joe Bettis told the Selectmen at their workshop last night that Adams could run out of salt. He said the town received two loads of salt yesterday and even if it's cut with 50 percent sand, he does not expect it to last another big storm. Bettis said delivery from Morton Salt has been an issue all year. He said he has continued to contact them and they do not have an answer. As of now, the company is behind on delivering 800 tons of salt to Adams.

FIRM PICKED FOR TOWN MANAGER HUNT (NA)

The Williamstown Board of Selectmen on Wednesday selected a human resources firm to help with the search to replace retiring Town Manager Peter Fohlin. On a vote of 4-0, the board chose Gov-HR USA of Northbrook, Illinois and agreed to authorize Chairman Ronald Turbin to negotiate a contract of up to \$17,500. The special Wednesday meeting was necessitated by the cancellation of Monday's meeting because inclement weather and the urgency of Fohlin's April 26th retirement date. Gov-HR was chosen from a list of four firms, three based in Massachusetts.

NA 02-23-15

LEGAL ISSUES HOLD UP NORTH ADAMS MUSEUM PLANS (NA)

North Adams Plans for the Hodge Mill Museum on Houghton Street have hit a wall. IBerkshires.com reports that the four buildings, dating to between 1840 and 1870, were facing the wrecking ball until Alan Horbal pushed to turn them into a walk-up museum of mill-worker housing. But legal obstacles have prevented the newly created Hodge Mill House Museum Inc. from entering or taking possession of the property. Two legal teams have researched the deeds to determine if the titles were clean — both had come up with different results. A third attorney has been hired to do another search. In the meantime, the estate trust and the nonprofit museum association are unable to come to terms. Nor can the museum get insurance to cover anyone working on the property or inside the buildings.

LANESBOROUGH TO INTERVIEW THREE FOR POLICE CHIEF POSITION (NA)

Lanesborough will interview three candidates for the police chief position. This past week the Police Advisory Commission opted to interview Sgt. Erik Josephson from Saint Albans, Vt., Detective Chelsea Tovar from Richmond City, Va., and Lanesborough Investigator Timothy Sorrell. Sorrell is the most senior officer currently on staff. Tovar is an experienced detective with a larger department and has family living in Lanesborough. Josephson is a sergeant with similar level of experience as the other two. The commission felt all three could handle the job. Commission members were somewhat disappointed that they hadn't received more resumes. Those three were the only three to apply.

THUNDERBOLT SKI RACE IN GOOD SHAPE FOR NEXT WEEKEND (NA)

Although many Berkshire County residents have had enough of the recent influx of snow, Thunderbolt back-country skiers are reveling in it. The Berkshire Eagle reports that according to Thunderbolt Ski Runner Trail Crew Coordinator Josh Chittenden, the 80th anniversary of the Thunderbolt Ski Run will make up for years when the snow just was not abundant enough to do the race justice. When the race is held next Saturday, racers will all start at the Greylock Glen Gazebo and ascend 1.3 miles up Mount Greylock. Normally racers would break at the War Memorial at the top of the mountain and prepare for the timed descent. Chittenden said 35 racers have signed up and they expect to have near 60 by race day.

NEW-LOOK SIGNS IN NORTH ADAMS (NA)

In an effort to better connect and highlight its assets, the city is slated to get new way-finding signage with a new look. The North Adams Partnership, a nonprofit that selectively develops and seeks to improve the city and city government have teamed up in an effort to a new logo, new way-finding signs, and a different overall feel to tourists and residents alike. Bankrolled entirely by the North Adams Partnership, Stoltze Design has been hired to introduce a number of design options at a 6:00 p.m. public meeting on Feb. 25th at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation. Through the new imagery, Mayor Richard Alcombright said he hopes people will begin to see the city in a different way.

NA 02-24-15

NORTH ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD ENDURES WEEK WITHOUT WATER (NA)

Residents at the five homes on a small cul-de-sac on Overlook Terrace in North Adams have been without water for a full week. And with the street's frozen line apparently broken in several places due to a deep frost, the Department of Public Works has changed its game plan to a full replacement of the underground piping, which is expected to continue today. The Berkshire Eagle reports that despite a crew being on the job for 12-plus hour shifts through the weekend — and several feet of water line repaired — tireless city employees haven't been able to get water flowing back to residents since it stopped last Tuesday. Although Overlook Terrace has been the primary concern, the city has had to devote resources to slew of other breaks and freeze-ups. The situation worsened on Sunday when the line feeding 497 Church Street, at the corner of Church Street and Overlook Terrace, also blew out.

NO BAIL FOR LANESBOROUGH MAN AFTER HIGH-SPEED CHASE WITH CHILD (NA, P)

A Lanesborough man who led three police agencies on a high-speed chase with his child in the vehicle Sunday evening is being held without bail. 36 year old James Roots, of Old State Road, initially fled from Pittsfield police in his Jeep Grand Cherokee about 5:30 p.m. after allegedly failing to stop for a stop sign on Madison Avenue. His flight turned into a pursuit by the Pittsfield, Lanesborough and Massachusetts State Police that reached speeds of 85 mph through Pittsfield, onto Route 7 in Lanesborough and through various parts of that town. Roots pleaded not guilty in Central Berkshire District Court on Monday to 10 charges, including multiple counts of reckless operation of a motor vehicle, reckless endangerment of a child, and a single count of assault and battery on a police officer, among others. Bail was set at \$1,000. The defendant is due back in Central Berkshire District Court March 25.

METHADONE CLINIC GIVEN APPROVAL IN NORTH ADAMS (NA)

A planned methadone clinic was given approval by the North Adams Planning Board last night. IBerkshires.com reports that Spectrum Health Services, which runs 16 clinics in the state, is leasing a property at 1274 Curran Highway. The only condition on the special permit was the screening of its dumpster. Kristin Nolan, Spectrum's director of outpatient services, told the board that there was a need for its services in North County. The clinic, which also provides educational services and counseling, will have a dozen staff members and be open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m.

BMC ACHIEVES THIRD STRAIGHT TOP 'CLINICAL EXCELLENCE' AWARD (All)

Berkshire Medical Center has received Healthgrades' Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence for a third straight year. The 2015 honor places the hospital in the top five percent of the more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide that are evaluated on clinical performance. Healthgrades is a leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. For more information about how Healthgrades determines its Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, you can visit www.healthgrades.com/quality.

NA 02-25-15

COLD WEATHER SLOWING NORTH ADAMS SCHOOL PROJECT (NA)

The bitter cold has been slowing down some of the renovation work at what will be Colegrove Park Elementary School in North Adams. IBerkshires.com reports that with the project at about 50 percent, officials are confident the contractor will meet the "substantially complete" deadline of July 22 — but the weather isn't helping. A good portion of the three-story former high school has been covered in plastic and portable heaters are working full blast to keep workers and materials from freezing. The main issue has been the masonry work, which requires warm temperatures.

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTMEN AGAIN DECLINE TO TAKE PIPELINE STANCE (NA)

The Williamstown Board of Selectmen on Monday for a second time declined a request to approve a town resolution opposing the proposed natural gas pipeline. But its members encouraged organizers to take the resolution to May's annual town meeting. IBerkshires.com reports that the three members of the board in attendance were clear that they did not necessarily disagree with petitioners Anne O'Connor and Shira Wohlberg. However, Selectmen Hugh Daley and Andrew Hogeland questioned whether the board should be speaking for the entire town on issues of national and global importance, and Daley and Selectwoman Jane Patton indicated they don't feel sufficiently informed to speak for the town even if it was the kind of thing the board should address.

NORTH ADAMS MAN FACES FELONY CHARGES IN ALLEGED BREAK-IN, ASSAULT (NA)

A North Adams man is free on personal recognizance after allegedly holding a woman in her own home against her will last month. 56 year old James Morandi of Hall Street pleaded not guilty yesterday to felony charges stemming from an incident January 20th at his ex-girlfriend's Bracewell Avenue apartment. Morandi pleaded not guilty to charges of felony breaking and entering in the nighttime, domestic assault and battery, intimidating a witness, and malicious destruction of property over \$250. He is due back in court for a pretrial hearing on April 1st.

WILLIAMSTOWN MAN ESCAPES INJURY IN CRASH (NA)

A Williamstown man escaped serious injury recently after his car collided with a tractor-trailer on Route 7. According Vermont State Police, 56 year old Raymond Gaudette was traveling on Route 7 near the former Green Mountain Race Track just after 8:30 p.m. Feb. 17th when his 2011 Toyota Camry struck a Freightliner tractor-trailer that was being backed into a driveway. Gaudette's Toyota was totaled in the crash, which only caused dents to the truck. State police reported the weather and road conditions to be clear. Gaudette told state police he was inattentive while operating his vehicle. No tickets were issued in the accident. Gaudette was transported to Southern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, where he was treated for minor head injuries and released. The driver of the truck, 36 year old Robert Counihan, of Pownal, was not injured.

NA 02-26-15

BERKSHIRE ARTS & TECH SCHOOL UNVEILS NEW GYM, CAFETERIA (NA)

Jeannette Lambert did the honors of cutting the ceremonial ribbon as the Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School unveiled its \$4.5 million, two-story addition to students, staff and invited guests. BArT, in Adams, hopes the new space will be a gift for the community as well. IBerkshires.com reports that the school is partnering with Main Street Stage to hold productions in the gym/auditorium. Johnson noted that the school potentially could be a polling station to replace the town garage.

MOUNT GREYLOCK COMMITTEE SENDS PRELIMINARY BUDGET TO TOWNS (NA)

The Mount Greylock Regional School Committee on Tuesday voted unanimously to send a budget to both its member towns with assessments that are higher than either town has signaled it wants to pay. On a vote of 6-0, the committee agreed to submit a preliminary fiscal year 2016 budget with a 2.61 increase from the fiscal 2015 budget. That is the budget that will be considered at a pair of public hearings — at Lanesborough Elementary School on March 16 and at Mount Greylock in March 17th. While Lanesborough officials have been vocal in their opposition to increased assessment, the near 8.6 percent rise may not be any more palatable in Williamstown, where the elementary school and other town departments are seeing their budgets rise by just 2.5 percent in fiscal 2016.

NORTH ADAMS LIBRARY BUDGETS WAGE HIKES FOR PART-TIME STAFF (NA)

The North Adams Mass library will ask for salary increases for its part-time workers. Librarian Mindy Hackner told the trustees on Monday afternoon that she has submitted the library's preliminary budget with the wage increases included. IBerkshires.com reports that the salary budget has been increased to \$231,000 to bring the part-time workers' wages in line with the new state minimum wage of \$9 an hour. At this time, they receive \$8.24 an hour. Hackner said she anticipates push back on this line item because once the city raises one salary, other departments may ask for increases. She said she has a scheduled meeting with the mayor to discuss the budget.

LAWYERS FOR EVAN DOBELLE SEEK TO WITHDRAW OVER NONPAYMENT (All)

Lawyers representing former Westfield State University President Evan Dobelle in a suit filed against trustees and other officials over his ouster from the post are seeking to withdraw from the case. The Boston Globe has reported that the firm, Shipman & Goodwin, of Hartford, Conn., cited "fundamental disagreements" with Dobelle and his failure to pay their bills. The law firm has represented Dobelle — who was twice elected mayor of Pittsfield during the 1970s — since he filed suit in federal court in 2013, prior to his resignation from the position he held for six years. He left amid allegations of lavish spending of university funds on personal expenses, such as travel and dining. In a separate lawsuit filed in 2014, former Attorney General Martha Coakley alleges that Dobelle misspent \$98,000 and also filed false expense reports with the college.

NA 03-02-15

OPERATING ROOMS RE-OPEN AT BMC NORTH CAMPUS (NA, P)

The operating rooms at the former hospital are being put back into use after a nearly \$1 million upgrade. IBerkshires.com reports that two of the four surgical suites at the Northern Berkshire Campus of Berkshire Medical Center will begin orthopedic outpatient surgeries today. Beginning today, the campus will be able to offer outpatient procedures such as treatments for carpal tunnel, torn rotator cuffs, and joint repairs three days a week. Full joint replacements will still be done at BMC because they require a hospital. The opening of the operating rooms is the latest medical service to be restored to the former Northern Berkshire Healthcare campus.

BERKSHIRE STATE REPS GIVEN ASSIGNMENTS (All)

On Thursday of last week, Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo assigned committees, which placed local officials in leadership roles. State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli was promoted to vice chairman of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development (on which he's served for some time), Rep. Paul Mark to vice chairman of both the Joint and House Rules Committee and Rep. Gailanne Cariddi to vice chairman of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. State Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier was not appointed to a leadership role; the Pittsfield Democrat vocally opposed some of DeLeo's decisions last session. She will continue in her role on the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. She was added to the committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

WILLIAMSTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PANEL HEARS FROM NORTH ADAMS PLANNER (NA)

The Williamstown Economic Development Committee heard from North Adams' city planner earlier this month, and one piece of advice stood out: Keep seeking advice. Mackenzie Greer sat down with the ad hoc committee to share North Adams' experience developing the city's first comprehensive plan in 40 years. IBerkshires.com reports that the Williamstown committee's objective is not quite so comprehensive. It was created by the Board of Selectmen with the specific charge of creating an economic development plan. At its meeting tonight, the EDC will hear from Tom Matuszko of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

ADAMS DRAFT BUDGET WOULD CUT 4 FULL-TIME POSTS (NA)

New Adams Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco introduced the first annual budget of his tenure last week, balancing a structural deficit by cutting four full-time town positions. The Berkshire Eagle reports that, citing the town's "difficult" financial position, Mazzucco wrote in a public letter posted to the town's website that he expects to cut town staff by at least three to four positions over the next several years — through attrition or reallocation of staff whenever possible. This year's cuts include one position in the highway department, one at the wastewater treatment plant and one clerical assistant job at town hall. In justifying the cuts, Mazzucco pointed to a structural deficit facing the town as it approaches fiscal 2016 and an "over-reliance" on reserves to offset the impact of the budget on the tax rate.

NA 03-03-15

FIELD RENOVATION MAKES IT TO PRELIMINARY ADAMS BUDGET (NA)

The Russell Field master plan has been written into the town of Adam's preliminary budget. IBerkshires.com reports that the Parks Commission in reviewing the budget last night said the proposed \$15,000 master plan made the first round of the budget process. During the commissioners' last meeting, they voted to make the Russell Field master plan a main priority. They said they would like to start construction by 2016 and believe grant funding could help renovation of the field. Chairman Todd Shafer said the budget is still preliminary and they still have to go before the Finance Committee and the Selectmen.

HINSDALE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS HIRING FULL-TIME TOWN ADMINISTRATOR (NA, P)

A seven-member committee has recommended Hinsdale hire a full-time town administrator at a salary range between \$50,000 and \$65,000. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Shaun Galliher, a member of the committee, presented the committee's findings during last week's meeting of the Select Board. The committee first convened early last year to consider the question of whether to hire a top administrator in Hinsdale. According to Galliher, Hinsdale's ability to address big issues like the environmental regulations, tightening school budgets and the Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct natural gas pipeline proposal — which affects Hinsdale — would improve with a managerial leader. The board has yet to decide when the position will be advertised and hired.

HINSDALE OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF DIVULGING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION (NA)

A Hinsdale candidate, who was passed over for a town position, has filed an Open Meeting Law complaint alleging that a selectman improperly revealed confidential information that was discussed in an executive session about the hiring process. The Berkshire Eagle is reporting that the December 2nd meeting in Town Hall concerned candidates for the town's transfer station attendant position, which since has been filled by Barry O'Keefe. After the Select Board's other two members left the meeting, Selectman Bruce Marshall was seen sharing information with a group of bystanders in the hallway outside the meeting room — an interaction that was captured on video by security cameras. Among the group was Bruce Stetson, the former transfer station attendant who was fired in April for insubordination.

READ ACROSS AMERICA (All)

More than 45 million people were on the same page yesterday, as schools and communities celebrated the 18th annual national "Read Across America Day." The Berkshire Eagle reports that March 2nd marks the birthday of the beloved Springfield-born author and illustrator, Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. He would have been 111 years old yesterday. Around the Berkshires, schools celebrated the day of literacy and whimsy with volunteer community readers, by wearing Seuss-inspired costumes and accessories, and even eating green eggs and ham — the latter done in homage to a Seuss book by the same name.

NA 03-06-15

BERKSHIRE TOURISM FUNDS WOULD BE SLASHED UNDER BUDGET PLAN (All)

Gov. Charlie Baker wants to nearly eliminate direct state funding for the Berkshire Visitors Bureau and other regional tourism centers, starting this summer. The Berkshire Eagle is reporting that Baker's proposed fiscal 2016 budget, which he released Wednesday, looks to slash \$4.5 million from the remaining \$5 million being spent on tourism agencies across Massachusetts. Originally, the state Legislature appropriated \$7.5 million, but a series of spending cuts to close the current fiscal 2015 deficit reduced the figure to \$5 million. With the state facing a projected \$1.5 billion deficit when the new fiscal year begins July 1st, Berkshire legislators and local tourism leaders expected spending cuts across the board, but not so severe for tourism promotion.

MCLA SELECTS U. WISCONSIN PROVOST AS 12TH PRESIDENT (NA)

The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts board of trustees voted unanimously to name Gregory Summers as the college's 12th president. IBerkshires.com reports that the position is dependent on approval of the Board of Higher Education, at a special meeting on March 10th, and negotiations with Summers. Summers, currently provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, was one of three finalists from an initial 59 candidates.

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSIDERS RESTRUCTURING (NA)

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District officials are exploring the possibility of restructuring the school district, making one if its elementary schools the site of pre-K through second grade and the other school for grades three through five. The Berkshire Eagle reports that currently, students who live in Adams attend C.T. Plunkett Elementary School while those from Cheshire go to Cheshire Elementary. District leaders, who introduced the concept at a recent School Committee meeting, say it is worth looking into. Superintendent Kristen Gordon said restructuring the elementary schools could consolidate — and maximize the efficiencies of — school resources while also saving on costs. The administration expects to delve into the issue fully after the budget — which is due on March 31 — is complete.

SHAKESPEAR AND COMPANY LEADER RESIGNS (All)

In an unexpected shakeup that stunned insiders at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, the theater's new executive director and president resigned suddenly on Thursday to return to his previous position in St. Louis. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Rick Dildine, who took the position last September after founding member and theater director Tony Simotes (sim-OH-tiss) was suddenly ousted as artistic director after five years, is leaving to resume the top job at Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. He originally held that position from 2009 to 2014. Dildine had announced the Lenox troupe's upcoming summer season just three weeks ago.

LENOX SINGER KATHERINE WINSTON ELIMINATED (All)

Lenox resident Kathrine Winston was eliminated from American Idol last night. The 18 year old Winston was one of 12 semifinalist women who sang last week in hopes of making through to the next round.

NA 03-09-15

NORTH ADAMS MAYOR'S \$42 MILLION BUDGET SHOWS 3.4 PERCENT INCREASE (NA)

North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright has proposed a \$41.97 million budget for fiscal 2016, which leaves an estimated \$542,000 budget gap despite a 3.4 percent increase in total expenditures. The Berkshire Eagle reports that, as was the case last year, the largest increases in the fiscal 2016 proposed budget are retirement costs, employee health insurance and commitments to school funding, combining for well more than a \$1 million increase. The city expects to see a modest increase in state aid, but not enough to cover such increases, and overall revenue remains mostly flat.

NEW TRANSPORTATION CENTER EYED TO HELP VETERANS (All)

Some 25,000 veterans are treated at Veterans Affairs medical center in Leeds but a lot of appointments aren't kept. IBerkshires.com reports veterans and their families continually struggle getting to medical appointments, jobs, or school. Some 50,000 veterans across the country are homeless and 90 percent of veterans families are living on the edge of poverty or below. On Friday, a partnership between the federal and state government, the nonprofit Soldier On, veteran's offices and the Berkshire Regional Transportation Authority started something new. Soldier On is using a \$2 million grant to open up a call center staffed by veterans and will coordinate any transportation needs for area veterans.

MOUNT GREYLOCK RSD CALLS FOR TEACHER AND CUSTODIAL REORGANIZATION (NA)

Mount Greylock Regional School District officials presented the latest round of cuts last week as they continue to trim the fiscal 2016 budget. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the latest proposal calls for teacher and custodial reorganizations, in addition to previously reported cuts that include staff reductions and eliminating electives and co-curriculars. Public hearings for the budget are scheduled at Lanesborough Elementary School on March 16th and at Mount Greylock Regional High School on March 17th.

ADAMS HIRES NEW WASTE-WATER SUPERINTENDENT (NA)

The Adams Selectmen ratified the hiring of new waste-water treatment plant Superintendent Robert Rumbolt on Wednesday. IBerkshires.com reports that Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco said Rumbolt was the obvious choice out of the three final candidates. Mazzucco said joint budget meetings between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen will start next week. The meetings will be held at the Visitors Center and departments will only present their budgets, there will be no vote. He said he urges residents to download the budget that is on the town's website and attend the meeting.

HANCOCK WEIGHS NEED FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPANSION (NA)

School officials believe that an expansion project is necessary at Hancock Central School to continue strong academics. But feedback from roughly 25 residents who attended a recent presentation at the school led School Committee members to agree to create a written report. Some residents agreed an expansion was needed and commented positively on preliminary drawings. Others were more cautious, questioning the process and requesting more information.

NA 03-10-15

NORTH ADAMS MAN GETS PROBATION IN KNIFE ASSAULT (NA)

A North Adams man has been sentenced to a year's probation for allegedly slicing a woman's hand with a knife after a night of drinking in March 2014. According to a probable cause report, 22 year old Bryce McBee, of State Road, had been involved in an argument while several people were drinking at a West Main Street residence on March 23rd, of last year. Witnesses told police that he left, but allegedly later returned with a knife in hand, tapping it on the glass of the front door as he asked to be let back inside. According to the report, the alleged victim exited the back door and walked around to the front porch in an effort to calm him down. The two argued before McBee allegedly cut her right index and ring fingers. Officers discovered blood on the porch when they responded to the disturbance. McBee was arrested later.

NORTH ADAMS MAN HELD ON ASSAULT CHARGE AFTER FOOT CHASE (NA)

A North Adams man wanted in connection with a domestic assault led police on a foot chase through a residential neighborhood early Sunday before being arrested in a backyard. According to police, 41 year old Jayson Daniels, of New Street, was being held without the right to bail yesterday after his arraignment in Northern Berkshire District Court on charges of domestic assault and battery and threatening to commit a crime, specifically murder. Daniels is due to appear for a dangerousness hearing on Wednesday. If determined by the court to be dangerous, Daniels could be held for up to 90 days without the right to bail.

PRELIM LANESBOROUGH ELEMENTARY BUDGET CALLS FOR \$100K REDUCTION (NA, P)

Lanesborough School officials are proposing to cut the budget by nearly 4 percent. IBerkshires.com reports that business manager Lynn Bassett presented last week the first draft of the fiscal 2016 budget, which is \$101,417 less in appropriations than last year. However, the School Committee may add more back in for a contingency. The biggest cut in the budget is \$164,330 in special education salaries. The administration is suggesting cutting about seven positions. Another change is with preschool program. The program was halted a few years ago because it wasn't paying for itself through tuition. Now, the school is trying to absorb some of the costs into the operating budget. A little more than half of the teacher's salary — \$28,155 — is now proposed to be paid out of the appropriated budget.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACING CUTS (NA)

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District is preparing for cuts that could eliminate up to 28 positions. IBerkshires.com reports that School Committee Chairwoman Darlene Rodowicz said both the committee and the towns' selectmen have tough decisions ahead of them. The School Committee met last night with Superintendent Kristen Gordon and discussed hearings for the draft budget of more than \$19 million. Rodowicz said the committee can either alter the budget or propose a budget the towns say they cannot afford. She said if this happens, the towns can either make other cuts to compensate or trigger a Proposition 2 1/2 override vote. Gordon said if the district has to cut anymore they will have to cut much needed positions.

NA 03-11-15

NORTH ADAMS SKATING RINK MANAGER PLACED ON PAID LEAVE (NA)

The manager of the Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink North Adams has been placed on paid administrative leave for undisclosed reasons. The Berkshire Eagle reports North Adams officials have confirmed that Darin Lane, who was absent from the Bay State Games last weekend, was placed on leave last week. Lane both manages the rink and coaches the Berkshire Battalion hockey team, which plays its home games at the facility. Rink operations will continue with little to no interruption, according to Mayor Alcombright. City Administrative Officer Michael Canales will take over day-to-day management of the facility, which is owned by the state and leased by the city.

NEW MCLA PRESIDENT APPROVED; WILL START JULY 1 (NA)

Greg Summers will be the next president of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. The state Board of Higher Education in Boston unanimously approved the trustees' recommendation yesterday that Summers be the school's 12th president. Summers, the current provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will start in his new position on July 1, according to Board of Trustees President Tyler Fairbank. Salary range and contract details are still being finalized, Fairbank said. His predecessor, Mary Grant, earned just over \$243,000 in 2014.

POWNALE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2 MULLING SOLAR ARRAY (NA)

Pownale Fire District No. 2, working with solar developer Green Lantern Capital, is seeking feedback on a proposed 500-kilowatt solar array on its 5.4 acre parcel on Route 346. The Berkshire Eagle reports that the array would provide revenue to support the entity's operating costs, according to Prudential Committee chairman Ray Bub. Pownale's Fire District No. 2 is its own municipality with authority to tax and is overseen by a Prudential Board. The entity provides water for some 140 households in the village of Pownale, the southernmost of the town's three villages.

LANESBOROUGH FIRE REPLACES FOUR VEHICLES IN TWO YEARS (NA, P)

In the last two years, the Lanesborough Fire Department has replaced three vehicles and added another. IBerkshires.com reports that next year, firefighters hope to continue to modernize their vehicle fleet with a new fire truck. The four vehicles are owned by the town but used by the Fire Department. Next year, the town is looking to buy a new fire truck. That comes at a cost of some \$500,000 and by then the town will have half of that saved. The Fire Department has applied for a grant that typically requires only a 10 percent match and he's hoping the town's additional contribution will help win it.

NORTH ADAMS ADS NEW POLICE OFFICER (NA)

The latest member of the North Adams police force was sworn in last night. IBerkshires.com reports that Officer David Lemieux took the oath from City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau before the City Council. Mayor Richard Alcombright has made it a point to recognize new full-time members of the Fire and Police departments by introducing them at the televised meetings. According to the mayor, Lemieux was officially sworn in a few weeks ago and then put immediately to work.

NA 03-12-15

BASHEVKIN LEAVING AFTER 29 YEARS (NA)

The founder and executive director of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Alan Bashevkin, is stepping down after nearly 30 years of leading the agency. IBerkshires.com reports that the board of directors, under Chairwoman Courtney Shapiro-Van Dusen, has enlisted the services of Executive Transitions Program of Third Sector New England, to aid in the search for a new executive leader. Transition consultant Nancy Jackson will lead this process with the NBCC's nine-member transition team. Bashevkin anticipates staying on through the end of the fiscal year in June as the budget for the next year is set and the board goes through its nominations and elections. And he'll work with transition team to ensure a smooth transfer of leadership.

NORTH ADAMS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CALLING IN PHONY MCLA BOMB THREAT (NA)

A North Adams man admitted he was off his prescribed medication when he called in a phony bomb threat which evacuated the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts campus in October 6th. 21 year old Jarret Ferriter appeared in Berkshire Superior Court yesterday to plead guilty to the charges, which were brought forth in a District Attorney's Complaint, bypassing the normal process of submitting the case to a grand jury for indictment. Judge John Agostini accepted the agreed-upon sentencing recommendation and continued the count of threatening the use of an explosive without a finding for two years.

NORTH ADAMS MAN GETS 15 MONTHS IN JAIL FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING (NA)

A North Adams man has been sentenced to 15 months in jail for breaking into an acquaintance's apartment late one night last year, prompting the tenant to bludgeon the intruder with a pellet gun. A Chase Avenue resident told police on December 27th that 42 year old Shawn Bulson, of North Holden Street, had come to his apartment earlier that night and asked to talk. Given the late hour, the man turned away Bulson — a person he had met through mutual friends. Bulson pleaded guilty in Northern Berkshire District Court on Tuesday to a charge of breaking and entering in the nighttime for a felony and malicious destruction of property under \$250. He was sentenced to 15 months in Berkshire County House of Correction, but offered 68 days of credit for time already served.

COUGHLAN HITS GAME-WINNING SHOT IN 2OT, SENDS HOOSAC TO STATE FINAL (NA)

Hoosac Valley's Jameson Coughlan scored on a baseline inbounds play from Austin Milesi with 1.6 seconds left in the second overtime to give the team a 54-52 win over Uxbridge in the Massachusetts Division 3 state semi-finals yesterday at the MassMutual Center. Coughlan scored 27 points, including seven of Hoosac's 12 points in OT and all four points in the second overtime to send the Hurricanes to Saturday's state championship game against Old Rochester at the DCU Center in Worcester on Saturday. The game at 12:30pm will be broadcast on WNAW. Meanwhile, Madi Ryan scored 16 points to lead the Hoosac Valley girls basketball team to a 63-57 win over Bellingham in the state Division 3 girls basketball semi-finals yesterday, also at the MassMutual Center. The Hoosac Valley girls will take on South Sectional champion Archbishop Williams on Saturday at 10:45am in the state championship that will also be broadcast on WNAW.

NA 03-16-15

ADAMS PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS TWO POLICE CRUISERS (NA)

The Adams proposed fiscal 2016 budget requests the purchase of two police cruisers for a total of \$72,000. IBerkshires.com reports that Police Chief Richard Tarsa presented the public safety budget Thursday night to a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Finance Committee. He urged the boards to consider the purchase of two cruisers for \$34,818 each with additional costs for equipment to upgrade the town's aging fleet. Tarsa said police cruisers should be rotated after five to six years of use, but because of the "magic" the Department of Public Works mechanics can do. He said they have allowed repairs to be made in house which ultimately saves the town money.

WILLIAMSTOWN AIMS TO ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS (NA)

Williamstown residents may have noticed a growing effort to ban single-use plastic bags and containers made of polystyrene, such as Styrofoam cups, food containers and cup lids. The Berkshire Eagle reports that some local businesses, such as Wild Oats and Hops & Vines, already emphasize the use of non-plastic containers. Other businesses are watching the debate, as the switch over from plastic to paper will take some time. A number of retailers are also expressing concerns about any additional cost, and the strength of paper bags that might be used for carrying heavier merchandise. According to a report issued by the Massachusetts chapter of the Sierra Club, plastic bags are often mistaken as food by both domesticated and wild animals.

MCCANN SCHOOL COMMITTEE OKS \$8.8M BUDGET FOR FISCAL 2016 (NA)

The McCann School Committee on Thursday approved an \$8.8 million nearly level-funded budget for fiscal 2016. The budget is up 1.8 percent overall from this year. Officials point to fixed costs, health insurance and state minimum spending that is not keeping pace with cost increases. The largest culprit is health insurance costs, accounting for \$1.4 million of the budget.

THREE CANDIDATES WILL VIE FOR LANSBOROUGH POLICE CHIEF POST (NA, P)

Three candidates, one local and two from other states will vie for the Lanesborough police chief position during interviews in the coming weeks. The Berkshire Eagle reports, the Police Advisory Commission recently revealed the identity of the three applicants: Lanesborough Police Investigator Timothy Sorrel, police Sgt. Erik Josephson of Saint Albans, Vt., and police Detective Chelsea Tovar of Richmond, Va. They were the only candidates to apply for the position, which will be left open when Police Chief Mark Bashara departs in mid-May.

WILLIAMSTOWN-LANESBOROUGH SCHOOLS SET TO NARROW SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (NA, P)

A list of finalists for the next Williamstown-Lanesborough Public Schools superintendent could be available within a week. School officials conducted a first round of interviews in executive session this week for the position, according to Regina DiLego, chairwoman of the superintendent search committee and Lanesborough School Committee. A handful of finalists will be interviewed in public meetings this April and officials hope to have someone in the position for the 2015-16 school year.

NA 03-18-15

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DISCUSSES FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR ADAMS (NA)

The Adams Town Administrator has some ideas for overcoming the growing structural deficit in the annual budget. IBerkshires.com reports that Tony Mazzucco met with the Maple Grove Civic Club on Sunday afternoon to explain some strategies and the direction he wants the town to go in. The town has been unable to match growth with expenses, according to Mazzucco, and it has been relying on declining reserves. He is looking at a few things that may help close the deficit. He said one of the main plans is to create an economic development committee that will specifically work on bringing jobs to town. He envisions the committee focusing on small manufacturing companies to complement manufacturing that already exists in the industrial park.

MOST ADAMS OPEN GOVERNMENT SEATS TO BE UNCONTESTED (NA)

As a 5 p.m. deadline came and went on Monday, few Adams non-incumbents had filed the paperwork necessary for running an available seat in town government, according to Town Clerk Haley Meczywor. The Berkshire Eagle reports that Select Board Chairman Arthur "Skip Harrington" and Vice Chairman John Duval will run unopposed for new two-year terms for the two open seats on the board this year. The two incumbents were the only to file paperwork for the May 4th town election. The town clerk position, a seat on the Board of Health, an assessor, two seats on the library board of trustees, two seats on the Cemetery Commission, a seat on the Adams Cheshire Regional School District's School Committee, and a seat on the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District's committee all will be uncontested, barring any write-in campaigns. Additionally, nobody took out papers to run for an empty seat on the town's Planning Board, while multiple seats on the Redevelopment Authority are expected to remain open. According to Meczywor, the only contested race is for the three open seats on the Parks Commission, which has four potential candidates.

WINDSOR COUPLE DENY CHARGES THEY STORED SONS' STOLEN GOODS (NA)

A Windsor couple accused of warehousing items allegedly stolen by their children from throughout the state remain free on personal recognizance after denying the charges. 62 year old James Tarjick and his wife Nancy both pleaded not guilty in Berkshire Superior Court yesterday to seven counts each of receiving stolen property valued over \$250. Their son, James Tarjick, Jr., was arraigned on similar charges in Central Berkshire District Court in January, but has not yet been arraigned in Superior Court. All three were arrested on Jan. 15 after police raided four Berkshire County properties. Because the accusations involve towns in Hampshire County, prosecutors from the Northwestern District Attorney's Office will become involved. The elder Tarjicks are due back in court on June 24th.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY HIGHWAY CREWS BATTLING BRUTAL POTHOLE SEASON (All)

Potholes are showing up fast around the Berkshires, and as local highway crews patch them, the more they show up. Public works officials expect that to be the case for another month. Municipal pavement repairmen were out in force throughout the Berkshires on Monday, primarily using cold patch until the hot asphalt plants re-open in mid-April for another road construction season. Many roads will likely require a complete resurfacing job, while others will need to be patched up. Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito says that the Baker administration is devising a plan to help cities and towns fill the plethora of potholes caused by severe winter weather.

WUPE 100.1FM
North Adams, Massachusetts
ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH
2015

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS are a staple party of the broadcast day on WUPE-FM. PSA's are aired free of charge whenever possible during the broadcast day. Gamma Broadcasting urges residents to fax, email or mail us public service announcements.

Gamma Broadcasting 2015

**WINTER WONDERLAND BASH
ENDS FRI, JAN 30
MD**

THE LEE HIGH SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO THEIR WINTER WONDERLAND BASH ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH. THIS FUN EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (16 OR OLDER.) ENTERTAINMENT AND LIGHT SNACKS BEGIN AT 5:30PM WITH A DINNER AT 6:30. TICKETS ARE \$25 PER PERSON AND CAN BE PURCHASED FROM ANY LEE DRAMA OR BAND STUDENT, OR YOU CAN CALL ANDREA LARMON AT 413-243-0521. THIS EVENT BENEFITS THE LEE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB AND MUSICAL DEPARTMENT. THE LAST DAY OF TICKET SALES IS JANUARY 30TH.

End Fri Jan 30
Lee High School , 300 Greylock Street

**ADAMS BREAKFAST
ENDS SUN, JAN 25TH
MD**

**THE ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 160 INVITES YOU TO A
FAMILY STYLED BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY. DOORS OPEN AT 8
AND RUNS UNTIL 11:30AM. JOIN THEM FOR A MORNING OF
LAUGHTER, FUN, AND GREAT BREAKFAST FOOD.**

End Sun Jan 25th
160 Forest Park Avenue, Adams

**SHEFFIELD R.A.D
ENDS TUE, JAN 20
MD**

**THE SHEFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT IS HOSTING; RAPE
AGGRESSION DEFENSE CLASS, ALSO KNOWN AS R.A.D.,
DESIGNED FOR WOMEN ONLY! THEY WILL BE HOSTING THIS
EVENT AT THE SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER ON TUESDAY
JANUARY 20TH. THE CLASS IS FREE TO ATTEND BUT
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. TO SIGN UP, CONTACT OFFICER
JACOB GONSKA AT 413-229-8522- EXT-206. BE SURE TO REGISTER
EARLY TO SECURE YOUR SPOT. PREVIOUS STUDENTS ARE ALSO
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

End Tue Jan 20
Sheffield Senior Center, 25 Cook Rd. in Sheffield

**DIAPER GIVEAWAY
ENDS FRI, JAN 23
MD**

CHP FAMILY SERVICES IS HOSTING THE GREAT DIAPER GIVE-A-WAY ON FRIDAY JANUARY 23RD. THIS EVENT RUNS FROM 9 – 1:30. CHP WILL BE DISTRIBUTING FREE PACKS OF DIAPERS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, AND A SNACK. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY BUT IT IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. THIS EVENT IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY HEVREH OF GREAT BARRINGTON. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CHP FAMILY SERVICES AT 413-528-8580.

End Fri Jan 23
CHP, 442 Stockbridge Rd in Great Barrington

**GOULASH IN YOUR GALOSHES
ENDS SATURDAY, JAN 17TH
MD**

**THE DALTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO
THEIR ANNUAL GOULASH IN YOUR GALOSHES SUPPER THIS
SATURDAY. FOR JUST 10 BUCKS, YOU CAN FILL YOUR PLATE
WITH GOULASH, SALAD, BREAD, AND DESSERT. YOU CAN
EVEN TAKE YOUR MEAL TO GO. KIDS 6 TO 12 EAT FOR JUST
FIVE BUCKS AND CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER ARE FREE.
DOORS OPEN AT 5. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
413- 684- 0521.**

Saturday: January 17, 2014 at the Dalton United Methodist Church from 5 – 7pm
755 Main Street, Dalton

PSYCHIC FAIR

ENDS SAT JAN 24TH

MD

**THE HEALING HANDS OF LIGHT SPIRITUALIST CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO THEIR PSYCHIC FAIR AND MEDIUM'S DAY
BAKE SALE THIS SATURDAY STARTING AT 9AM. THE EVENT
RUNS UNTIL 2PM AT 465 GRANDBY ROAD IN CHICOPEE. FOR
INFO OR ADVANCED BOOKINGS CALL DENISE 413-519-9669.**

Sat Jan 24th

465 Granby Road, Chicopee

**BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR
ENDS WED, MAY 15TH
MD**

**THE BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR SINGERS FOR
ITS 37TH SEASON OF BRINGING CHORAL MUSIC TO BERKSHIRE
COUNTY. REHEARSALS FOR THE SPRING CONCERT WILL BE HELD
EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7 'TILL 9 AT PITTSFIELD HIGH
SCHOOL'S CHORUS ROOM. NO AUDITIONS NECESSARY AND
EVERYONE IS WELCOME. THE SPRING CONCERT FOR THIS YEAR IS
ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 17TH. FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 413-442-6120 OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE:
BERKSHIRE-CONCERT-CHOIR-DOT-ORG.**

Wed, May 15th

PITTSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS ROOM

**LANESBOROUGH WINTER DANCE PARTY
ENDS SAT, FEB 21st
MD**

**LANESBOROUGH IS TURNING 250 AND THE LANESBOROUGH
COUNCIL ON AGING IS CELEBRATING BIG WITH A ROCK AND ROLL
WINTER DANCE PARTY ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
FEATURING THE OLDIES AND GOLDIES MUSIC OF THE SKIDMARKS.
DOORS OPEN AT 8PM AT SKYLINE COUNTRY CLUB. DANCE UNTIL
YOU DROP, COLLECT DOOR PRIZES, AND TAKE A BREAK FROM
WINTER. TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT THE LANESBOROUGH TOWN
HALL. ONE FOR \$23 AND TWO FOR \$25. FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL LORNA GAYLE AT 413-448-2682.**

Sat, Feb 21

Skyline Country Club

**BENEFIT OF MUCH LOVE
ENDS SAT, FEB 28
MD**

THE JIMMY SQUIRES BENEFIT OF MUCH LOVE IS THIS SATURDAY (TODAY) AT THE ITAM LODGE. STARTING AT 12PM, ENJOY MUSIC FROM SOME OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY'S FAVORITE BANDS LIKE WHISKEY CITY, WYKYD, BLACKWATER, MR. BONES, SNAKEHOUSE, LEGACY, AND THE HOTSHOT HILLBILLIES. ADULTS ARE \$20 AND CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE FREE. EVENT WRAPS UP AT 8PM.

End Sat Feb 28
ITAM lodge

**ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST
ENDS SUN, Feb 1st
MD**

**HOW DOES AN ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST SOUND? THE
UPTON LODGE OF MASONS A.F. AND A.M. ARE HOSING AN ALL
YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET THIS SUNDAY. THE FEAST
STARTS AT 8AM UNTIL 11:30. A DONATION OF \$8 FOR ADULTS, \$7
FOR SENIORS, AND \$6 FOR KIDS GETS YOU IN. YOU CAN ALSO
TAKE YOUR MEAL TO GO. THESE BUFFETS WILL BE HELD ON THE
FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
VERN EMERSON AT 743-3874**

Sunday, Feb 1st 8:00 at The Upton Lodge

120 Church Street, Cheshire

**PENNY SOCIAL
ENDS SUN, FEB 1ST
MD**

**THE PILGRIM MEMORIAL CHURCH INVITES YOU TO THEIR
VALENTINE'S PENNY SOCIAL ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST. DOORS
OPEN AT 1PM AND THE EVENT KICKS OFF AT 2. REFRESHMENTS
AND BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL ELLEN AT 413-442-9567.**

Sun: Feb 1st at 2pm

249 Waconah St. in Pittsfield

**PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS
ENDS TUE, MAR 17TH
MD**

**IS YOUR CHILD IN PRE-SCHOOL OR IS ENTERING NEXT
YEAR? THE PITTSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BERKSHIRE
COUNTY HEAD START IS OFFERING THREE FREE
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS FOR ALL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD
CHILDREN WHO AREN'T ENTERING KINDERGARTEN NEXT
YEAR. THE FIRST SCREENING TAKES PLACE ON MARCH 17TH
AT MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL FROM 9:30AM TO
1PM. (TWO ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS WILL BE HELD AT
CONTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND AT THE BERKSHIRE
COUNTY HEAD START ON LATER DATES.) FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL LINDA AT 448-9804. THAT'S 448 98-04**

Kill March 17

Morningside Community School, Pittsfield

**LENTEN FISH BAKE
ENDS FRI, APRIL 3RD
MD**

**THE PITTSFIELD ELKS CLUB INVITES YOU TO THEIR 2ND ANNUAL
LENTEN FISH BAKE THEY'RE HOSTING EVERY FRIDAY DURING
LENT. ON THE MENU IS FISH, SALAD, BREAD & BUTTER, CHEF'S
CHOICE OF POTATO & VEGETABLE, AND DESSERT. DOORS OPEN
AT 4PM AND EARLY BIRDS DINING UNTIL 5PM DINE PAY JUST 8\$.
AFTER THAT, IT IS \$10. LOUNGE IS OPEN UNTIL 10PM. ALL
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ELKS CHARITIES. THE LAST FISH BAKE
IS GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD.**

Fri: Apr 3

Pittsfield Elks Club – 27 Union St. Pittsfield

**4th ANNUAL ITALIAN DINNER
ENDS THUR, APRIL 2RD
MD**

**KICK OFF CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH! THE ITAM LODGE
INVITES YOU TO THEIR 4TH ANNUAL ITALIAN FAMILY DINNER
PREPARED BY THE PITTSFIELD CHAPTER OF UNICO ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND. ADULTS PAY \$25 AND CHILDREN JUST \$10
TO DINE. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT BERKSHIRE COUNTY
KIDS' PLACE, A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER THAT PROVIDES
SERVICES TO CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA RELATED TO
ABUSE. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED BUT THERE WILL BE
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR. TO REQUEST MORE
INFORMATION OR TICKETS, DIAL 499 - 2800.**

Thu: Apr 2

ITAM Lodge on the Lake – 93 Waubeek rd. Pittsfield.

**VEGETARIAN TASTING
ENDS SUN, MAR 15
MD**

**THE LANESBORO BETTER LIVING CENTER INVITES YOU TO A FREE
VEGETARIAN TASTING EVENT THIS SUNDAY AT 6PM. YOU CAN
SAMPLE HEALTHY VEGETARIAN, VEGAN, AND GLUTEN FREE
DISHES BETWEEN 4 AND 6PM AT THE CENTER LOCATED INSIDE
THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN LANESBORO. PLEASE
NOTE THIS IS NOT A FULL COURSE MEAL. DRAWINGS AND PRIZES
WILL ALSO BE GIVEN. FOR MORE INFO, CALL 413-442-5511**

Kill March 15th

Lanesboro Better Living Center: 900 State Rd/ Rt8 in Lanesboro, MA.

**SPRING VENDOR CRAFT FAIR
ENDS SAT, MAR 21ST
MD**

SUPPORT THE CHARLES H MCCANN TECH HIGH SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY THIS SATURDAY AT THE HOUGHTON MANSION, ALSO KNOWN AS THE NORTH ADAMS MASONIC TEMPLE, AT THE SPRING VENDOR CRAFT FAIR. THE FUNDRAISER RUNS FROM 9AM TO 3PM AND FEATURES LOCAL VENDORS, BUSINESSES, BAKED GOODS, AND A CHINESE AUCTION. ALL PROCEEDS GO BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Sat: Mar 21

Houghton Mansion – 172 Church St. in North Adams

**SATURDAY SUPPER
ENDS SATURDAY, MAR 21
MD**

**THE DALTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO
THEIR CHICKEN PARM SUPPER THIS SATURDAY. FOR JUST
10 DOLLARS, YOU CAN FILL YOUR PLATE WITH CHICKEN
PARMESAN WITH PASTA, VEGGIES, SOUP, AND DESSERT.
YOU CAN EVEN TAKE YOUR MEAL TO GO. KIDS 6 TO 12 EAT
FOR JUST FIVE BUCKS AND CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER ARE
FREE. DOORS OPEN AT 5. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
413- 684- 0521.**

Saturday: March 21 at the Dalton United Methodist Church from 5 – 7pm

755 Main Street, Dalton

**PASTA PIZZAZZ
ENDS SAT, MAR 28TH
MD**

LOVE PASTA? GET YOUR ITALIAN ON AT ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL'S ALL YOU CAN EAT PASTA DINNER, PASTA PIZZAZZ, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH. THIS PASTA DINNER WILL FEATURE SAUCES FROM MANY LOCAL RESTAURANTS. THERE WILL ALSO BE SALAD, BREAD, DRINKS, DESSERT, FUN, AND RAFFLES. ADULTS GET IN FOR \$10, CHILDREN \$7, AND SENIORS AND KIDS UNDER 5 ARE FREE. PROCEEDS ARE USED TO FUND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS, ATHLETICS, AND PROJECTS FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 413-447-9121.

Sat: Mar 28

Takes place in the St. Joseph High School Gym

**BUCKY LEWIS COMEDY NIGHT
ENDS SATURDAY, MARCH 28
MD**

**THE FIRE AND IRON FIREFIGHTERS MC STATION 100 PRESENTS
BUCKY LEWIS COMEDY NIGHT ON MARCH 28TH AT THE BOUNTI-
FARE RESTAURANT IN ADAMS. THE EVENT STARTS AT 6PM WITH
THE BUCKY LEWIS COMEDY SHOW AND, AT 9PM, THE RAW
ENERGY BAND TAKES THE STAGE UNTIL 1AM. THE EVENT RAISES
MONEY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES. TICKETS ARE \$20, AND THERE IS
ALSO A 50/50 RAFFLE AND CHINESE AUCTION. YOU CAN GET
YOUR TICKETS AT THE BOUNTI-FARE AND AT VALS VARIETY. YOU
MUST BE OVER 18 TO ATTEND. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
413-242-8642**

Saturday: March 28th at Bounti-Fare Restaurant

Howland Ave, Adams

**PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS
ENDS MONDAY, MAR 23rd
MD**

**IS YOUR CHILD IN PRE-SCHOOL OR IS ENTERTING NEXT
YEAR? THE PITTSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BERKSHIRE
COUNTY HEAD START IS OFFERING A FREE DEVELOPMENTAL
SCREENING FOR ALL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN WHO
AREN'T ENTERTING KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR. THE
SCREENING TAKES PLACE ON MARCH 23RD AT CONTE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL FROM 9AM TO 1PM. (AN ADDITIONAL
SCREENING WILL BE HELD AT THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY
HEAD START ON THE 30TH.) FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
LINDA AT 448-9804. THAT'S 448 98-04**

Kill March Mon 23

Conte Community School, Pittsfield

**PORK CHOP DINNER
ENDS THUR, MARCH 26TH
MD**

**THE CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO
THEIR BREADED PORK CHOP DINNER ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH.
ON THE MENU: PORK CHOPS, ROASTED POTATOES, BROCCOLI,
APPLESAUCE, ITALIAN BREAD, AND KEY LIME PIE. DINNER RUNS
FROM 5PM UNTIL 6PM AT THE CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH. THE DINNER WILL BENEFIT A MISSION TRIP TO
NICARAGUA FOR PASTOR CHRISTA LEVESQUE AND HER SON
ZACHARY. PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT IN ADVANCE BY
CALLING KAREN AT 413-664-4581 BY THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH.**

Thur: March 26th

Cheshire United Methodist Church – 197 Church St, Cheshire.

WUPE 100.1FM
North Adams, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH
2015

COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

A weekly syndicated program featuring interviews and guest speakers talking about education, arts, children, religion and many other topics. Also airs on WUPE-AM, WBEC-FM 95.9 and WBEC-1420AM.

Gamma Broadcasting 2015

Quarterly Issues/Program List for July 2014-September 2014. The following is a listing of the significant issues responded to by the following stations: WHAB-FM Acton, WUNR-Boston/Brookline, WEEL-AM Boston, WRCA-AM Cambridge, WEIM-AM Fitchburg, WSBS-AM Great Barrington, WLYN-AM Lynn, WAZN-AM Marlborough, WBSM-AM New Bedford/Fairhaven, WDIS-AM Norfolk, WNAW-AM North Adams, WUMD-FM North Dartmouth, WZLX-FM North Hampton, WUHN-AM Pittsfield, WVEI-FM Providence, WBSL-FM Sheffield, WVEI-FM Springfield, WAZN-AM Watertown, WAAF-FM Worcester, WVEI-AM Worcester, WUMB-FM Boston, WBPR-FM Worcester, WUMG Stow, WUMT-FM Marshfield, WUMV-FM Milford, WFPB-AM Orleans, along with the most significant treatment of those issues

Program Issue	Date	WUMB Air Time	Program Name	Narrative of Type, Description of Issue
Politics	1/4/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: 40th Anniversary of the Boston School Desegregation Order	Henry Allen, Community activist and parent, and Horace Small, Executive Director-Union of Minority Neighborhoods, speak about the bussing riots and desegregation of Boston Public Schools in the 1960's 29:00
Politics	1/11/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: Joe Moakley's Journey: From South Boston to El Salvador	Mark Robert Schneider, author, speaks about his new biography about Joe Moakley 29:00
Service to Minority Groups	1/18/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: The Beauty Experiment	Phoebe Baker Hyde, Author ,speaks about her new book "The Beauty Experiment: How I Skipped Lipstick, Ditched Fashion, Faced the World Without Concealer and Learned to Love the Real Me", a personal journey back to self
Politics/Public Affairs	1/25/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: Greater Boston Chamber of	Paul Guzzi, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, talks about the importance of the Chamber, services offered and the future. 29:00
Politics/Public Affairs	2/1/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: UMass Bostons role in International Mediation and Dispute Resolution Commonwealth Journal: Opportunity Nation: Expanding Access to Opportunities for Success Locally and	Professors EbenWeitsman and Darren Kew, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, talk about the strides UMB has made globally in mediation and dispute resolution 29:00
Educational/Public Affairs	2/8/2015	7:30am		Mark Edwards, Executive Director, Opportunity Nation, speaks about how his organization helps local and start up businesses expand to reach not only a broader local audience, but national as well 29:07

Educational/local talent	2/15/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: A Documentary About Collectors of Racist Memorabilia	Chico Colvard, Filmmaker, speaks about his new project in which he explores the phenomenon of racist memorabilia as a collectors item 29:00
Educational	2/22/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: When to Fight Nature, When Not to Fight Nature	Sarah Oktay, Director of UMass Bostons Nantucket Field Station, speaks about how there are times we need to let nature run its course without intervention, and how to tell when that is. 29:13
Politics	3/1/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: Turmoil and Transition in Boston: A Political Memoir from the Busing Era	Larry DiCara, author, talks about the political side of the busing era in Boston. 29:00
Public Service/Minority	3/8/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: Working Toward Social Racial and Gender Equality in	Sylvia Ferrel-Jones, President and CEO, YWCA Boston, talks about the ways the YWCA is impacting social, racial and gender issues in Boston 29:00
Educational	3/15/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: The Death of Prehistory	Stephen Mrosowski, Director, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research speaks about how the concept of prehistory has diminished histories of other cultures outside the West and how archaeologists can reclaim more inclusive histories by accepting ancient pre-literate histories as an integral part of human history 29:00
Politics	3/22/2015	7:30am	Commonwealth Journal: Heal This Way	Tracey B. Wilson, official tour photographer for Lady Gaga, talks about her photojournal of the fans and their personal stories and connections to Lady Gaga 29:00

[illegible]

WUPE 100.1FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND NEEDS REPORT

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

2015

VIEWPOINTS

This is a sample of Viewpoint programs aired during this quarter of 2015.
The program airs at 8:00 A.M. on WBEC-FM.

Gamma Broadcasting 2015



**Quarterly Issues Report – Q1 First Quarter, 2015
Viewpoints Programs 15-01 through 15-13**

During the first quarter of 2015 the following compliancy issues were covered

African-American Issues	Literature & Arts
Agriculture	Marijuana Laws
Art	Marriage & Family Issues
Business	Media
Business & Labor	Medicine
Children's Issues	Mental & Physical Health
Commerce	Military
Communication	Organized Crime
Community Action	Personal Development
Community Leadership	Personal Finance
Community Standards	Pets
Corruption	Politics
Crisis Management	Popular Culture
Cultural & Economic Diversity	Poverty,
Discrimination	Presidents
Diversity	Psychology
Drug And Alcohol Addiction	Public Safety
Education	Racism
Emergency Management	Recreation
Employment	Religion
Entertainment	Science
Ethics	Self-Help
Family Issues	Seniors' Issues
Government	Slavery
Health & Exercise	Sports & Recreation
Health & Well-Being	Suicide
History	Technology
Homelessness	The Arts & Creativity
Immigration	US History
Innovation	War
Justice System	Weather
Language	Women's Issues
Leadership	

SEGMENT #1 – Making Masterpiece: Behind the scenes at PBS Drama

11:28

SYNOPSIS: The PBS series, "Downton Abbey" premieres this week, and it's one in a long line of very popular programs that the network has produced. How do they find shows like "Downton," "Sherlock," "Brideshead Revisited," and "Poldark"? What goes into choosing which programs make it on the air? And how has the format for "Masterpiece" affected commercial network programming through the years? We talk to the producer of the series and also to a TV expert about these issues.

Host: Gary Price. **Guests:** Rebecca Eaton, Exec. Producer, the "Masterpiece" series for PBS out of WGBH, Boston, author of the book, "Making Masterpiece,"; Robert Thompson, Prof. of Television and Popular Culture, the Newhouse School, Syracuse University (newhouse.syr.edu).

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: the arts, media, popular culture, business

SEGMENT #2-- Public Speaking and Stress: Strategies to take away the fear

10:09

SYNOPSIS: Why are people so afraid to give speeches in public? It's the cause of sweaty palms, headaches, nausea and weak knees, to mention only a few of the problems that speakers experience. We talk to a psychologist and a speech educator about why anxiety builds when we have to give a public address, and how we can use this stress to our benefit.

Host: Marty Peterson. **Guests:** Jeremy Jamieson, Asst. Prof. of Social Psychology, University of Rochester, NY; Philip Dalton Assoc. Prof. of Rhetoric and Chair of that department, Hofstra University, NY.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: mental health, communication, education

Program #15-02

Air week: 1/11/15

SEGMENT #1 – Super Storms and America's Aging Weather Infrastructure

11:35

SYNOPSIS: Super Storm Sandy was a devastating event that caused death, destruction and billions of dollars in property damage in its wake. One fact that was brought out during the onslaught of that huge hurricane was the need to update our nation's weather forecasting and emergency management systems. We talk to a journalist and author who conducted research on the storm, the systems that tracked it and found out how our weather forecasting, tracking and evacuation protocols and equipment need to be modernized to deal with the extreme weather that climate change will bring us in the future.

Host: Gary Price. **Guest:** Kathryn Miles, journalist and author of "Super Storm: Nine days inside Hurricane Sandy."

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: weather, technology, emergency management, politics, government

SEGMENT #2- Questions with No Answers That Make Us Think

10:57

SYNOPSIS: We all want answers to the complicated questions in life, but sometimes just asking the questions are enough to make us think deeply about our lives and our world. We talk to a man who has made a living asking questions that sometimes have no hard and fast answers, or where the resolution changes depending upon our age or circumstances. He tells us how the process of coming to an answer is often more important than any one answer itself.

Host: Marty Peterson. **Guest:** Dr. Gregory Stock, bioethicist, author of "The Book of Questions".

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: health; ethics; suicide

Program #15-03

Air week: 1/18/15

SEGMENT #1 – Stress & Hope: Dealing successfully with life's negatives

11:03

SYNOPSIS: We've all heard stories about people who overcome tremendous odds and end up becoming a success. Or they're faced with a serious illness, but they manage to come through it healthier and happier.

How do they do it? We talk to two people who have experience with adversity about what it takes to make it through the dark, and seemingly hopeless times in life.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Trent Angers, Co-editor with Coach Dale Brown, of "Getting Over the Four Hurdles of Life," ; Kim Kircher, member of ski patrol at Crystal Mountain resort, WA, author of the book, "The Next 15 Minutes: Strength from the top of the mountain,".

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: mental health, sports & recreation, emergency management, self-help, medicine

SEGMENT #2 The History of and Changes in Late Night Television

10:43

SYNOPSIS: Late night television has changed dramatically during the past year with younger hosts such as Jimmy Fallon, Seth Meyers, Stephen Colbert and James Corden taking over the helms of popular shows. Are these new hosts going to change late night in a substantial way? Will they be changes for the better?

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: Robert Thompson, Robert Thompson, Prof. of Television and Popular Culture, the Newhouse School, Syracuse University (newhouse.syr.edu); Dick Cavett, talk show host, actor, author of the book, "Brief Encounters: Conversations, magic moments, and assorted hijinks,".

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: media, business, popular culture, entertainment

Program #15-04

Air week: 1/25/15

SEGMENT #1 – Using Humor to Discuss Serious Subjects

10:41

SYNOPSIS: Sometimes talking about serious subjects, even with friends and family, can cause arguments and bad feelings. But just as Mary Poppins said, "...A spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down," humor can make the discussion of serious subjects go down easier. Our guests are two very talented and funny people who use humor, satire and irony to make their points about women in science, and the immigrants' experience.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Aasif Mandvi, actor, award-winning playwright, cast member on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," and author of the book, "No Land's Man,"; Megan Amram, comedian, writer on NBC's comedy "Parks and Recreation," and author of "Science...for Her!"

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: immigration, women's issues, discrimination, science & technology, media

SEGMENT #2- Face Time vs. Screen Time

10:42

SYNOPSIS: Kids are always on their phones, tablets or computers – even when they're sitting across from one another at the lunch table! Does communicating via screens hurt kids?

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: Patricia Greenfield, Distinguished Prof. of Psychology, UCLA, Dir. of the Children's Digital Media Center, Los Angeles, CA Susan Pinker, psychologist, journalist, author of "The Village Effect"

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: technology, children's issues, seniors' issues, mental & physical health, education

Program #15-05

Air week: 2/1/15

SEGMENT #1 How Are Those Resolutions Going?

10:22

SYNOPSIS: Many of us make resolutions on New Year's Day to lose weight, exercise more or maybe save more money. How are those going a month later? Most Americans don't keep resolutions after a few weeks. Why is that? We'll discuss strategies for planning and fulfilling that big change in your life.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Tom Somodi, CEO & President of the Change Science Institute; Chris Carosa, Pres. of Carosa, Stanton Asset Management, author of *Hey, What's My Number?*

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: personal finance, health & exercise, personal development

SEGMENT #2- The Future of the Mind

11:18

SYNOPSIS: It's amazing that in the 21st century, science knows so much about all of the organs of the body save one: the brain. We talk to a scientist and author about the unbelievable abilities of the brain, how memories help us predict the future, where dreams are located, how brain injury can sometimes make someone a genius, and how research into brain function is opening up new areas of understanding the mind and its possibilities.

Host: Marty Peterson. Guest: Dr. Michio Kaku, physicist, professor of theoretical physics City College and City University of New York, co-founder of string theory, and author of *The Future of the Mind: The scientific quest to understand, enhance, and empower the mind.*

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: medicine, science and technology, education

Program #15-06

Air week: 2-8-15

SEGMENT #1 – Teaching Political Debate in Schools

11:26

SYNOPSIS: Civics classes in many grade schools and high schools aren't the same as they were back 20 years ago, when teachers lectured on "how a bill becomes a law" to a roomful of bored students. These days, kids are more likely to discuss and debate some of the most pressing issues of the day. We talk to two researchers about how some schools are teaching students how to debate correctly, how discussion of hot topics can foster understanding of diverse points of view, and the long-term benefits for students who engage in thoughtful, civil, debate.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Diana E. Hess, Senior VP of the Spencer Foundation, Prof. of Social Studies Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Paula McAvoy, Assoc. Program Officer of the Spencer Foundation and philosopher of education. Both guests are co-authors of the book, *The Political Classroom: Evidence and ethics in democratic education.*

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: education, politics, cultural & economic diversity, religion, community standards, community action

SEGMENT #2- Brown Girl Dreaming: The importance of diverse voices in literature

10:15

SYNOPSIS: So much literature is written by white authors – of the past and present – that it's not always relevant to young people of color, immigrants or those from non-western backgrounds. Our guest, an award-winning author, says it's time to hear from different voices in literature – beginning when children just start to open books.

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: Jacqueline Woodson, award-winning author of "Brown Girl Dreaming," a memoir written entirely in verse.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: African-American issues, education, literature, diversity

Program #15-07

Air week: 2/15/15

SEGMENT #1 – Tomlinson Hill

10:27

SYNOPSIS: Researching your ancestors is popular these days. It can be exciting if your ancestors were famous or if they had some connection to a historical event. However, it can be painful if your family played a part in one of the darker periods in our history, such as slavery. We talk to a man whose family held slaves and hear how he went back in history and to his family's home town to confront his past, to meet the relatives of those slaves, and to find out what life was like then and now for the two Tomlinson families.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Chris Tomlinson, journalist, author of "Tomlinson Hill: The remarkable story of two families who share the Tomlinson name – one white, one black,"

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: slavery, poverty, justice system, racism, family issues

SEGMENT #2- Presidential Sidekicks

11:46

SYNOPSIS: The next presidential campaigns are gearing up and GOP and Democratic hopefuls are already testing the waters more than 18 months before the elections. The people you see in front of the cameras and in the headlines are only part of the story, though. Behind the scenes are men and women who support the candidates in very important ways. We'll hear about a few of these hardworking "sidekicks" who served some of our modern presidents, and even about one who made George Washington smile!

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: Jerald Podair, prof. of history and American studies at Lawrence University, Appleton, WI; Julia Rothman, co-author of "The Who, the What and the Where: 65 artists illustrate the secret sidekicks of history,"

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: presidents, politics, corruption, health, US history

Program #15-08

Air week: 2/22/15

SEGMENT #1 – Changing the Conversation: Resolving Conflicts at home and at work

11:13

SYNOPSIS: Conflict is part of life, but it doesn't have to be a negative experience. We talk to two experts on conflict about how to make disagreements with a spouse or other family member, or with colleagues at work a positive and productive learning experience.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Dana Caspersen, mediator, teacher and author of, "Changing the Conversation: The 17 principles of conflict resolution." Dr. Judith Wright, author, coach, corporate consultant and founder of the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential, where she also teaches.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: employment & labor; marriage & family issues; mental health

SEGMENT #2- Art and Enrichment

11:48

SYNOPSIS: All of us drew pictures as children, but as we grew older, we saw that we either did or did not have real talent. Those of us who were *not* skilled gave it up and went on to do other things. Our guest says that we shouldn't have dropped the pencil or paintbrush, and He'll tell us how we can all benefit from drawing on a daily basis – both in developing skill in art, and creativity and confidence in other parts of our lives.

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: Danny Gregory, artist, teacher, founder of the Sketchbook Skool, and author of "Art Before Breakfast: A zillion ways to be more creative no matter how busy you are."

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: the arts & creativity, personal development, education

Program #15-09

Air week: 3/1/15

SEGMENT #1 – The History of Physics: Why we need to know what came before

8:43

SYNOPSIS: The history of physics is a long and extremely interesting one, littered with the names of some of the most famous scientists in the world, like Galileo, Newton, Copernicus, Einstein, Curie, and others. It is also the story of great discoveries that changed cultures, religious beliefs and politics over the centuries. We talk to a science historian about a few of the highlights throughout the long history of physics and astronomy.

Host: Gary Price. Guest: Tom Jackson, author of "Physics: An illustrated history of the foundations of science" – a Ponderables book.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: history, science and technology, religion, education

SEGMENT #2- Addiction: Why it happens and how to prevent it

12:52

SYNOPSIS: Millions of Americans are addicted to alcohol and drugs, and many of them end up unemployed, broken away from their families and homeless. We talk to a psychologist about the causes of addiction, and why some people are more likely to fall to it than others, and find out how an author who is battling alcohol and drug addiction made his journey to sobriety, and the lessons he learned on the way.

Host: Marty Peterson. **Guests:** Ryan LaLumiere, psychologist, Assistant Prof. in the Psychology Dept., University of Iowa, and a specialist on addiction; Bob Allison, recovering addict, author of "Saved by the Prince of Peace: Dungeon to Sky."

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: drug and alcohol addiction, science, health, homelessness, marijuana laws

Program #15-10

Air week: 3/8/15

SEGMENT #1 – What makes a great CEO?

9:59

SYNOPSIS: A number of high-profile companies have appointed new CEOs lately. What is it that makes one candidate better than another to lead a corporation and make it innovative and profitable? We talk to two management specialists about the characteristics of a good leader, what the CEO is responsible for, and what sets great CEOs apart from other business leaders.

Host: Gary Price. **Guests:** Bill Pasmore, Organizational Practice Leader at the Center for Creative Leadership, and Professor of Social Organizational Psychology at Columbia University, NYC; Adam Bryant, "The Corner Office" columnist for the New York Times, and author of the book, "Quick and Nimble: Lessons from leading CEOs on how to create a culture of innovation."

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED business & labor, leadership, crisis management, innovation

SEGMENT #2- The Most Human Human: Man vs. Computer

11:36

SYNOPSIS: The Academy Award-nominated film, "The Imitation Game" brought to light the contributions of Alan Turing in breaking the Enigma code during WWII. Throughout his career, he thought that maybe we could build a computer that could think like a human. But could even the best tech whizzes of today build a machine that could not only *think* but also *converse* like a human? We talk to a man who researched that issue and even competed in a contest to prove *he* was human, and find out what it takes for chatbots to beat humans at *their* own games.

Host: Marty Peterson. **Guests:** Brian Christian, author of "The Most Human Human: What talking with computers teaches us about what it means to be alive."

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: technology, communication & language, recreation, education

Program #15-11

Air week: 3/15/15

SEGMENT #1 – Don't Slam the Door! The "art" of quitting

10:58

SYNOPSIS: Many people remain in bad situations because they are afraid to quit, but they shouldn't. Our guest says that if you take the time to carefully plan just how and when you'll walk out the door, it's easier to deal with the anxiety, fear and depression that can follow such a big decision. We'll hear about steps anyone can take – and those they shouldn't – when it's time to quit and move on.

Host: Gary Price. **Guests:** Peg Streep writes non-fiction, is a blogger at Psychology Today.com and the author of the book, "Quitting: Why we fear it, and why we shouldn't, in life, love and work," now out in paperback.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: military, employment, mental health, agriculture

SEGMENT #2- Embellishment or Memory Lapse? Lying on the news

10:41

Synopsis: A few weeks ago, veteran news anchor, Brian Williams, was suspended from his job on the Nightly News because he had embellished a story about his involvement in an event in the Iraq War. Did he purposely lie? Or could it have been a matter of "misremembering"? We talk to a psychologist and a news veteran about the issue, how it can happen and what the future may hold for Williams.

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: Dr. Frank Farley, psychologist, professor at Temple University in Philadelphia and a former president of the American Psychological Association; Al Primo, creator of the "Eyewitness News" format for television; producer of *Teen Kids News* and a the recipient of an Emmy, a Peabody Award and an Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award, among many others

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: media & news, business, psychology, war

Program #15-12

Air week: 3/22/15

SEGMENT #1 – Stolen Art and Art Fraud: Who does it and where does the art go? 13:54

SYNOPSIS: This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Gardner Museum heist of millions of dollars in paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer and others. Nobody knows who took the paintings, but our guest has a theory. We also talk to an art expert and an art show coordinator about what happens to stolen art, how art is determined to be genuine, and how to avoid scams if you're buying or selling art and antiques.

Host: Gary Price. Guests: Stephen Kurkjian, journalist and author of the book, "Master Thieves: The Boston gangsters who pulled off the world's greatest art heist"; Jane C.H. Jacob, art consultant, president of Jacob Fine Art, Oak Park, IL; Scott Diamant, president & CEO of the Palm Beach Show Group.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: art, organized crime, commerce, science & technology, community leadership

SEGMENT #2- What the Dog Knows: How and why search dogs work 7:42

SYNOPSIS: Search dogs will follow a scent for miles and even put their lives in danger looking for survivors of mudslides and building collapses. How do they do it, and why? We talk to a search dog owner and trainer about these amazing animals, the physiology that helps them hone in on a single scent, and why they will work for hours in horrid conditions for their handlers.

Host: Marty Peterson. Guest: Cat Warren, cadaver dog owner and trainer, author of the book, "What the Dog Knows: Scent, science and the amazing ways dogs perceive the world.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: pets, science, public safety

Program #15-13

Air week: 3/29/15

SEGMENT #1 – It Was a Dark and Stormy Night: The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest 10:17

SYNOPSIS: Everyone knows the line "It was a dark and stormy night" from Snoopy's exploits as a budding novelist. But do you know the real author of that famous line, and why he has a literary competition named after him? We'll talk to the retired professor of English and contest creator about the famous aristocrat and author who lent his name to a quirky contest, and why he was a better writer than he's been given credit for. We'll also hear some of the winning entries from past Bulwer-Lytton Contests.

Host: Gary Price. Guest: Scott Rice, retired English professor from San Jose State University and founder of the annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest.

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: literature & arts, history, education, media

SEGMENT #2- Mindful Work: Meditation in the workplace 11:20

SYNOPSIS: We're always hearing about how everyone is stressed these days, that we have too much to do and too many people asking for a moment – or more! – Of our time. What can we do to keep our bosses

happy, our clients needs fulfilled and ourselves from pulling out our hair? We talk to two men who have found that meditating can help workers become more productive, less stressed and happier overall.

Host: Marty Peterson. Guests: David Gelles, business reporter, NY Times, author of "Mindful Work: How meditation is changing business from the inside out." Allan Lokos, founding and guiding teacher of the Community Meditation Center in NYC, author of "Through the Flames: Overcoming disaster through compassion, patience and determination."

COMPLIANCY ISSUES COVERED: business, health & well being, religion

Contents copyright 2014 by
MediaTracks, Incorporated
2250 East Devon Avenue, Suite 150
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
847-299-9500 Fax 847-299-9501
www.mediatracks.com

Producers: Pat Reuter
Production Directors: Sean Waldron, Nick Hofstra & Reed Pence

Each week's program is available for affiliate download at ftp://mediatracksdownloads.com. For guest information, log onto www.viewpointsonline.net. *Viewpoints* is a registered trademark of MediaTracks, Incorporated.